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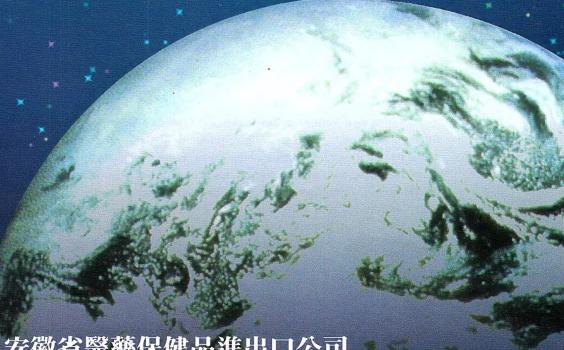
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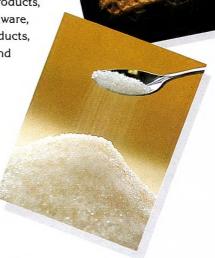




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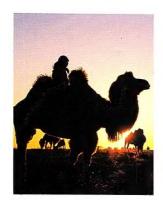
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## EDITORIAL



# China -A Land of Discovery

Although China has been open to tourists for decades, an enormous amount of its 9,600,000 square kilometres are rarely seen by outsiders. Other places have long been "discovered", but new insights into even the most well-known tourist spots abound. In this, our first "Voyages of Discovery" issue, we accompany you to the far north to see a seldom-visited section of the Great Wall, along the ancient Silk Road, and in the opposite direction to Guizhou, a province that definitely has yet to be discovered by tourists.

There are few people who have not heard of the Great Wall, but in this issue's article our author offers a new perspective. On a recent trip to Shanxi Province, he visited a 1,000-kilometre section of the wall where both the inner and outer walls still stand intact. He explains clearly why these two structures were built, as well as their strategic and military importance throughout history.

Next we go to southwestern China's Guizhou Province, where the Tujia Minority hold a fascinating and little-known ceremony for chasing away evil spirits. Consisting of magic acts, dances, ritual masters and opera, the *nuo* ceremony is a unique cultural tradition still practised in today's modern world.

While the *nuo* ceremony is undoubtedly an important event in the lives of the Tujia people, a 10-year reunion with friends is also cause for celebration. A decade ago several young men from Hong Kong spent a year travelling the length and breadth of China. Ten years later they returned to the Silk Road section of their trip with their wives, where they saw old friends and discovered the many changes that have taken place there since.

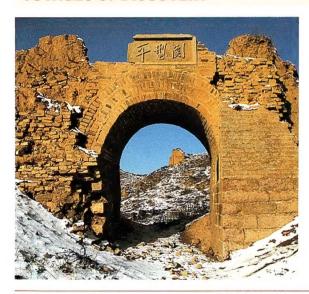
In such a large and ancient country as China, there is always something new to explore. Places where few (or no) tourists ever go still exist, and new discoveries are being made every day. So for all you travellers out there, now is an excellent time to start your own "Voyage of Discovery".

THE REALM OF RELIGION  The Sorcerer's Dance: Mystic Beauty Blended with Religious Spirit Photos by Zheng Yunfeng / Text by Xiang Dong Chinese Buddhist and Taoist Music Photos by Ma Peiwen/Article by Zhang Minli  THINGS CHINESE	63 74		
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No. 154 April 1993

## **VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY**



## Tracing History Along Shanxi's Great Wall

Photos by Shan Xiaogang/Article by Shan Baojiu

First built during the Warring States Period, construction continued on the Great Wall until the Ming Dynasty, with each successive emperor adding more and more to this remarkable structure. Our article focuses on the Shanxi section, which makes up approximately one-fifth of the wall's total length. Here we find countless reminders of the Great Wall's long and colourful history: the ancestors of a family of famous generals, ancient battlements, watchtowers and strategic passes.

# The Mysterious Nuo Ceremonies of Guizhou's Tujia Minority

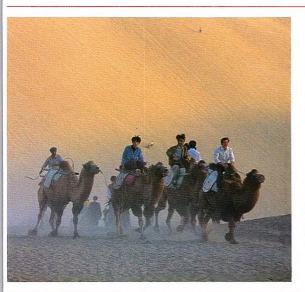
Photos by Er Dongqiang/Article by Li Jie

One of the most remote parts of China, Guizhou Province is home to many minority groups, including the Tujia. These people have been practising for centuries an ancient ritual called *nuo*, whose aim is to chase away evil spirits and ensure good fortune. Involving incredible feats of magic, all-night reading of scriptures, ritual dances and face masks, this is one of the most fascinating ceremonies to be found in China today.

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# TRADE LINK Nuo Masks in Guizhou Province EXECUTIVE JOTTINGS Major Hotels in Guizhou, Shanxi, Gansu and Xinjiang TRAVEL NOTES NEWS NEXT ISSUE 87 88 88 99



Front Cover: A camel caravan on the Silk Road (by Song Shijing)

## Revisiting the Silk Road — Ten Years of Change

Photos & Article by Ma Yiu Chun

Over a decade ago several young men from Hong Kong set out on a year-long trek through China. In this article, those same men and their wives revisited the Silk Road section of their journey. They recount their personal experiences of being reunited with old friends, and witness the many changes that have taken place since their last trip.

## **LANDSCAPES AROUND CHINA**

## A Glimpse at Life on Tiny Lingkun Island

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Photos by Ma Yiu Chun/Article by Lu Jianguang

Near the city of Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province is a seldom-visited island called Lingkun, where people still live a simple, maritime existence. Inhabited by refugees that fled their hometowns during the Ming Dynasty, Lingkun has a diverse mix of cultures and traditions. Making their living by collecting shellfish, the people here have adapted remarkably well to their island life.





### PUBLISHER:

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138 Queen's Road Central,
Hong Kong
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Telex: 82225 HKCTP HX
Cable: HKCATMPS
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Editor-in-Chief: Wang Miao
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Editorial Dept.: 541 9980

Managing Dept., Advertising Dept., Tourist Dept., Promotion Dept.&

Trade Service Dept.: 541 1331

Photo Library: 541 9980 Colour Separation: Goody Colour

Colour Separation: Goody Colou Separation Ltd.

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd. C & C Building, 36 Ting Lai Road, Tai Po, N.T., H.K.

Tel: 666 4988

H. K. Advertising Agency: In-Group Publication Ltd.

### AGENCIES:

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Australia: Gordon and Gotch Ltd., 25-37
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Belgium: Sun Wah Supermarket
Brazil: Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltda.
Canada: Sun Wa Bookstore, Toronto
Van China Trade Centre Ltd., Vancouver
China: China National Publications

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**Thailand:** Chew Hong Service Ltd., Bangkok

The Philippines: Good Quality Merchandising, Manila

U.S.A.: China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles

Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York China Daily Distribution Corp., New York

## SUBSCRIPTION AGENCIES

(Please refer to subscription data at back of book)

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News-stand price: HK\$33



# Tracing History Along Shanxi's Great Wall

PHOTOS BY SHAN XIAOGANG ARTICLE BY SHAN BAOJIU

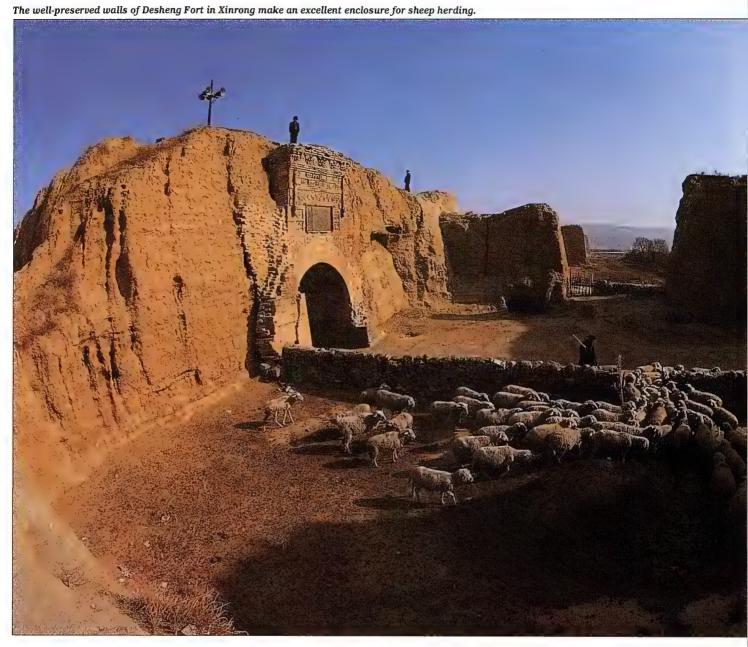
There is an old saying in China: "He who does not reach the Great Wall is no hero." Today, almost all visitors to Beijing can achieve this exalted status by making a trip to the Great Wall at Badaling. Measured against the entire 6,700-kilometre length of the Great Wall, however, the Beijing section is but a tiny part.

In order to learn more about the wall, and of course to become a real hero, I paid a visit to the ruins of a 1,000-kilometre section of the wall in Shanxi Province, west of Beijing.

The Ming Dynasty Inner Great Wall at Pianguan County stretches towards Shuozhou.

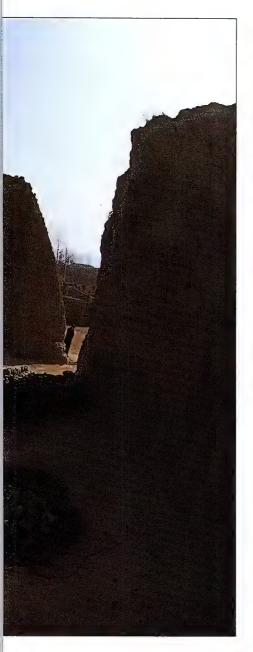
A cave dwelling is dug into the former beacon The author with some children from Yanggao on a tower at the eastern end of Kouzi Village in battle platform of the Great Wall Yanggao County. Xinpingbu 內 蒙 古 **INNER MONGOLIA** 鎮宏堡 天鎮) Zhenhongbu 得勝堡 陽高 Deshengbu Yanggao Juqiangbu • oxinrong 等 Shahukou 鎮邊堡 Zhenbianbu 大同 © Datong 威魯口 右玉舊城 雲崗石窟 Weilukou Youyu Ancient City Yungang Yellow River 左雲 右玉 ●Youyu Zuoyun Grottoes Sanggan River 山西 SHANXI o 平魯城 Pinglu City 西 HAANXI Labriuwan Fort Hengshan Mountains 平魯 山陰 Hualinbu Wanjiazhai ● Pinglu 靈丘 Shanyin ●Lingqiu 河曲 好漢山堡 偏關 Pianguan Hequ 娘娘灘 Heroes' Mountain Fort Niangniang 0 平型關 Jyir 朔州 新廣武 利民堡 Shuozhou New Guangwu Shoal Pingxing Pass Liminbu Fortress 繁峙 舊廣武 "OW RIVER **⊚**Fanshi ●雁門關 Yanmen Pass Old Guangwu Fortress Wutai Mountains 代縣 Daixian 寧武 Ningwu 河 北 HEBEI 蘆芽山 蘆芽山 Luya Mountain ● ● Heyeping Mountain 陽泉 Yangquan 太原 ●娘子關 Niangzi Pass Taiyuan 0 平定

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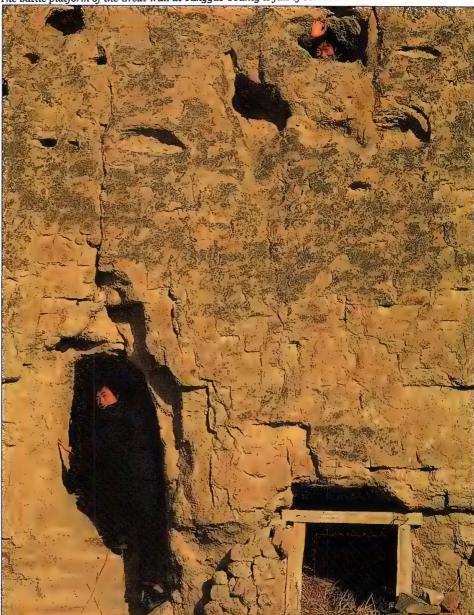


The battle platform of the Great Wall at Yanggao County is full of secret tunnels.



## Shanxi's Famous Generals and the Great Wall

First occupied by the State of Jin, and then successively by the States of Zhao and Wei during the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), Shanxi was continually an object of contention between the Han people living in the Yellow River valley and the nomadic tribes inhabiting the Mongolian grasslands to the north. After Beijing became the political centre of ancient China in the 13th-14th centuries, Shanxi and particularly the Taihang Mountains in the eastern part of the province became a strategic defensive line. The poor, rugged land that is now Shanxi accordingly became a place of great importance in military affairs and national defence. This may very well account for the fact that nearly half of the famous military generals in Chinese history have been natives of Shanxi.



The preponderance of generals from this region certainly had an impact on the Great Wall - since it was built for military purposes, the wall naturally is associated with many famous battles. A careful look at what is now called the Outer Great Wall in Shanxi shows that the old defence work exactly follows the boundary line between today's Shanxi Province and Inner Mongolia. This boundary has traditionally been a demarcation line separating people engaged in agriculture and those in animal husbandry. On a map from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) the current provincial boundary was actually the national bor-

The rise and fall of this section of the Great Wall mirrored the prosperity and decline of the Ming Dynasty. In the early days of Ming rule, the imperial army launched

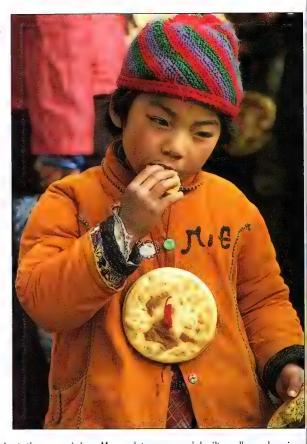
▶ At the Yunlin Zen Monastery in Yanggao County, one can see images of various gods and dieties, as well as intricate murals.



A bread "necklace" makes a convenient snack for this child in Zuoyun County.

This large conch, one of the relics discovered in Youyu County, once served as a bugle for ancient troops.





Also found in Youyu is this iron suit of armour once worn by Ming



repeated attacks against the remaining Mongol troops and built walls as barriers along the battle front. Major sections of the wall were constructed with rammed earth laid with stones on its surface. The wall was enforced with watchtowers, battle platforms and strategic passes. A garrison system based on the principle of hereditary service was established, whereby generations of the same families shouldered the task of guarding the frontier wall. After Emperor Chengzu (r. 1403-1424) moved the capital from Nanjing to Beijing in 1421, he and successive emperors had the Inner Great Wall built and reinforced for the added safety of their kingdom.

My purpose for visiting both the inner and outer sections of the Great Wall was to take a look at the first defence line, whose strongholds and strategic passes witnessed the use of signal fires and bore the brunt of many fierce battles. I also wished to see in person the second defence line, which doubtless required untold amounts of manpower and financial resources to construct.

## Place Names Reflect Battlefield Experiences

In order to see both sections of the Great Wall on a single trip, I started from Tianzhen County on the border between the northern parts of Hebei and Shanxi. My starting point was half-way between Datong in Shanxi and Xuanhua in Hebei, the two most important and heavily-fortified border towns during the Ming Dynasty.

Having arrived at Tianzhen just before the start of Chinese New Year, I found myself the only guest at the inn and immediately had a sense of what these isolated border towns must have been like in ancient times.

Xinpingbu (Xinping Fort), 30 kilometres north of Tianzhen, was the first fortress along Shanxi's section of the Great Wall constructed during the period 1368-1398. Many places in the vicinity have such words as "fort", "barracks" and "checkpoint" incorporated in their names, lending the area a martial atmosphere. Today of course, such names no longer reflect the places' true functions.

The north gate tower of Xinping Fort still stands, and the street leading to the gate has a long history as a commercial centre. Rows of shops of different sizes selling a variety of specialties certainly reminds one of the booming trade which was a hallmark of ancient border towns.

On Chinese New Year's Day, firecrackers were set off in huge quantities and festivities were in full swing. I wandered into an ancient courtyard and was greeted by a beautifully-carved screen wall. The people living here, surnamed Sun, had been businessmen for seven or eight generations. Mr. Sun, a very talkative man in his 70s, regaled me with stories about the town's past and took me to the family ancestral shrine in the back yard. Here, tablets bearing the names of his ancestors were placed on an altar carved in wood, to be worshipped by all successive generations. An old picture of his second uncle's funeral was also placed on the altar.



During festivities in Zuoyun County, drummers wear ancient army uniforms.



An imperial decree issued by Emperor Taizu of the Ming Dynasty to commend his generals for their meritorious military service is displayed among the historical relics in Youyu County.

## Zhenhong Fort, the Site of Many Battles

Two days later, I left Tianzhen by car and travelled along the Great Wall to Yanggao County. Ten kilometres southeast of Yanggao was an ancient battlefield, where the historic "Baideng Siege" took place. Emperor Gaozu (r. 206-195 B.C.) of the Han Dynasty, on an attack he personally launched against the Xiongnus (Huns), fell into an enemy ambush and escaped only after having bribed his adversaries. Today, archaeologists have discovered bronze weapons dating back to the Warring States Period, underscoring Yanggao's ancient strategic importance.

In a valley outside the county town is a village called Great Wall Village, due to its proximity to the wall. The Great Wall in this valley is built with a high concentration of watchtowers and beacon towers, because to the northwest of the Great Wall is a broad plain, an ideal approach to the stronghold and therefore often serving as a battlefield.

About two kilometres northeast of the Great Wall stands Zhenhong Fort, built during

the Ming Dynasty. Many sections of the wall and battle platforms of the old fort can still be seen today. Most of the villages of Zhenhong Fort are outside the Great Wall, with the exception of one small house which was constructed so that it appears to be inlaid in the Great Wall.

## An Ancient Strategic Pass

On the seventh day of the first lunar month, I arrived at the city of Datong, one of the nine garrison towns on the border during the Ming Dynasty. Traditionally, the town has been a point of frequent contact between the Han people and ethnic minorities. Today it is even more alive with activity, especially during the Chinese New Year holidays. However, I did not come to see the city itself but to visit the Xinrong District, north of Datong.

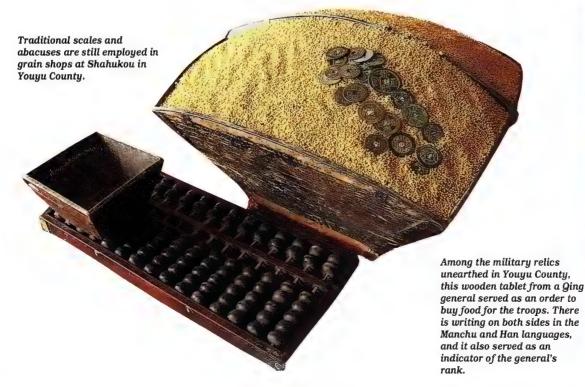
Xinrong witnessed the repeated construction of defence works throughout a number of dynasties. During the Ming period, the land beyond the Great Wall was under the rule of remnant Mongol tribes and the Great Wall at Xinrong, therefore, became a major defence

line. A number of barracks and garrison posts were built, and passes along the Great Wall such as Juqiang Pass and Desheng Pass served as strategic gateways on the northern border of the Ming empire. I spent several days visiting one fort after another, and saw that most of the strategic passes were now in ruins, having become the peaceful settlements of local villagers.

## Once Magnificent Weilu Fort Gate, Buried Beneath the Sand

The next leg of my trip led me to Zuoyun County, whose county seat was built in 1392 when it was a garrison fortification for the Ming Dynasty. The county is the home of a performing troupe called Victory Gongs and Drums, whose performances were inspired by the victorious return of border guards from expeditions in ancient times.

I came to Weilu Fort on the 13th day of the first lunar month. On the Great Wall and near the fort is Weilukou, a mountain pass studded with watchtowers. As the pass leads



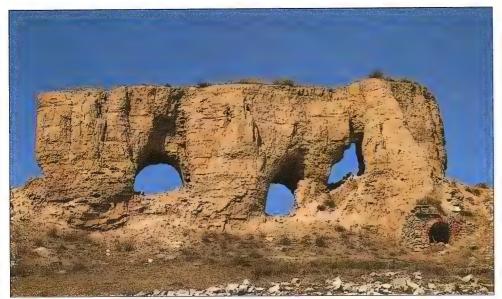


Wanrong Inn is the only guesthouse at Shahukou that still houses the descendants of the original founders. The present-day family has 26 members belonging to four generations, all living under the same roof.





The whole town of Youyu pours out to celebrate the Lantern Festival. Children are seen here performing the Waist Drum Dance.



Heroes' Mountain Fort at Pianguan has been eroded by the elements.



The Nine-Bend Yellow River Lantern Show, performed during New Year celebrations in Pinglu, is believed to have something to do with ancient army formations.



Laoniuwan Fort at Laoniuwan Village is the first village the Yellow River flows past on its way through Shanxi Province.

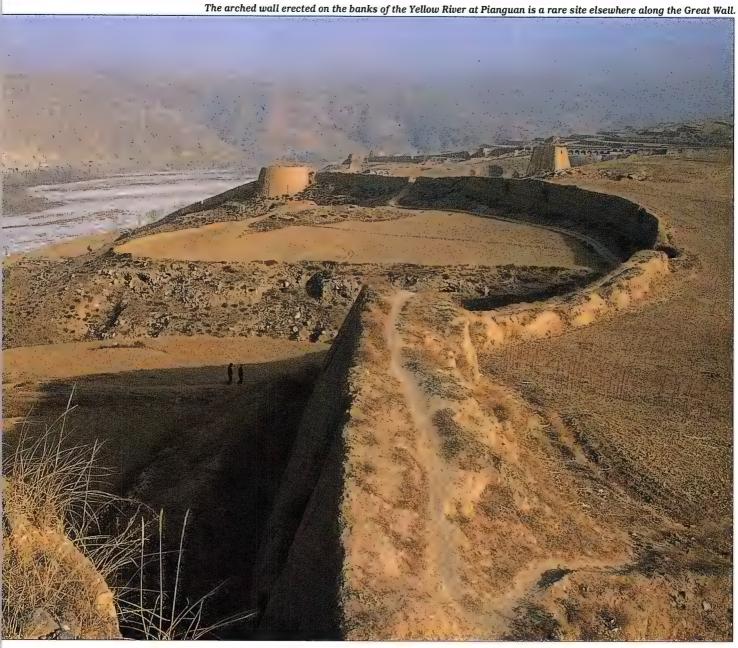


to today's Inner Mongolia, ancient defenders of the Great Wall had a fortification built here. The fort is small in size, perhaps as it was intended to hold just enough soldiers to secure the pass. The ruins of the watchtowers have become farming plots, and from here one can see the Great Wall meandering into the distance. I tried but could not find the gate to the fort, and later learned that the southern gate has long been buried beneath the sand.

Back in the county town, I was told that there were activities celebrating the approaching Lantern Festival. I hurried to the site and saw a band of drummers wearing ancient military uniforms parading through the town. It was an impressive sight, and gave me a better appreciation of the historical significance of this region.

## Shahukou, a Trading Centre in the Ming Period

Two days later, on the day of the Lantern Festival, I continued my journey westward and came to Youyu County, in whose town



centre various performances were taking place. There was a folk dance colourfully described as "Rowing Boats on Land", as well as a lion dance, a dragon dance, a group playing waist drums, a yangko dance and people walking on stilts. When night fell, beautifully-decorated lanterns were lit in front of every house and music played in every corner of the town. The festive atmosphere and joyous enthusiasm of the Shanxi people were infectious.

The next day, I went to Shahukou (Tiger Killing Pass), ten kilometres from the county town on the border between Shanxi and Inner Mongolia. Although a major pass of great strategic importance on the Great Wall, it was also the location of a horse market during the Ming Dynasty. Merchants came in increasing numbers and shops were opened, turning the place into a trading centre for people from the Central Plains and the area beyond the Great Wall. After the construction of the Beijing-Baotou Railway, however, Shahukou gradually lost its significance as a major transportation hub.

The Wanrong Inn in Shahukou was very popular in its heyday, consisting of four or five big courtyards with guest rooms attached. This ancient inn is still open today, but on a much smaller scale. Ancient furniture and utensils are still preserved inside and are now considered antiques of great value.

Youyu County Town, once one of the largest towns in northern China, has a long history. At the local museum, I saw a fine collection of cultural relics, including burial objects unearthed from tombs of the Xiongnus, armour worn by Ming soldiers, their bugles and an imperial decree. This decree was issued by Zhu Yuanzhang, founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and was written in praise of General Wang Yu for his meritorious military service. Observing these objects provides insight into the situation on the front line during that time.

## The 500-Year-Old Town of Pinglu

From Youyu, I turned south and came to the town of Pinglu. Built during the middle years of the Ming Dynasty, the wall of the town, though in poor condition, still retains much of its original magnificence. However, one obvious aspect which differs from ancient times is that today motorcycles and tricycles, rather than horse-pulled carts, pass under the arched gateways.

Xiamujiao Village, just outside Pinglu Town, is the birthplace of Wei Chigong, a general in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) who has been deified in the form of a door guardian. In the village a stone tablet still stands announcing that this is the hometown of General Wei. The day I arrived, the 22nd of the first month, happened to be the day of festivities honouring him, and many performances were being held in the village. Apart from enjoying the parade, I found the lantern show, named the "Formation of the Nine-Bend Yellow River", a unique spectacle. Villagers first planted rows and rows of wooden poles and then hung 2,360 lanterns on the poles according to rules of the Eight Trigrams pertaining to battle formations. Ropes linked the poles together creating passages resembling a maze. It is said that



The ice-protection dam at the Niangniang Shoal in Hequ County was built to resemble the Great Wall.



Children in Ningwu County dig out ice blocks from a frozen river for building and to use for cooking.



One of the cave dwellings chiselled out of the wall at Limin Fort in Shuozhou is used as a meeting place for local Christians.



walking through this labyrinth helps to cure illness and ensure the safety of the villagers and their animals.

## Pianguan — a Well-Fortified Ancient Frontier Post

I left Pinglu County Town and came to Pianguan (Slanting Pass) at the western end of the Outer Great Wall in Shanxi. Being one of what were known as the "three outer passes", Pianguan was the headquarters of the Shanxi Garrison during the Ming Dynasty, which oversaw the defence of the entire Inner Great Wall in Shanxi. The pass joins up with Guancen Mountain in the east and faces the Pianguan River, a tributary of the Yellow River in the west. Located in an area where the terrain is high in the east and slopes downwards to the west, the town's name is well-founded.

In ancient times, invading enemy troops could easily push their way into Shanxi in the wintertime, marching across the frozen Yellow River and through the pass at Pianguan. When the Ming court decided it needed defensive fortifications to more effectively protect



the area, walls, watchtowers and beacon towers were constructed in close formation. For added security, the walls were high and strong and could accommodate a large force, thus creating a formidable regional defence system.

Since the road to Laoniuwan Fort, my next destination, was not open to vehicle traffic, I had no choice but to go on foot to this village along the Yellow River. On the way I saw round beacon towers and a battle platform, known to the locals as "Tiger Head Battle Platform". Making my way through Wanjiazhai Valley, I found the mountain path was only wide enough to admit people in single file. It was not difficult to imagine that such a position, once guarded by soldiers, was nearly impregnable. At Laoniuwan, the fort tower and watertowers were still in fairly good condition, indicating that the materials used and the workmanship employed during their construction were of excellent quality.

### The Heroes' Mountain Fort

I then visited Nanbuzi Village, which is located on a loess plateau. Here, the Great

Wall undulates with the highland, and viewing it from afar, as it is occasionally obstructed by the plateau, it looks very much like a dragon reclining on the landscape.

Behind Nanbuzi sits an ancient fort called the Heroes' Mountain Fort. Its name was inspired by a fierce battle between Mina troops and Mongol soldiers, in which the entire Ming regiment perished. Thus its name was chosen to commemorate the heroic deeds of the Ming soldiers.

Upon leaving Pianguan County, I swung by Hequ County, home of a local Shanxi opera called Leaving the West Pass. All the villagers in this area are opera lovers, and when there is a show people come from as far as dozens of kilometres away.

In the section of the Yellow River that faces Hequ County is an islet, the only inhabited islet along the entire length of the river. Records show that since the river water used to rise and fall dramatically, the island was once totally submerged in water. To protect the residents from inundation, a dam has recently been erected to check the surging water. The dam's top features crenellations resembling those on the Great Wall, indicative of the wall's influence on present-day architecture.

## A Christian Meeting Hall in a Cave

I turned back and proceeded to head east on my journey along the Inner Great Wall. Over 1,600 kilometres long, this wall was constructed in the middle years of the Ming Dynasty as the second defence line against the Tartars.

This section of the Great Wall links up with the Outer Great Wall in neighbouring Hebei Province, passing through three different mountain chains. For this reason, it was engineered to take full advantage of the mountainous terrain and was enforced with castles and forts. Many passes protected by the wall, therefore, commanded strategic positions and were the point of contention of many battles.

Moving east, I first came to Limin Fort in Shuozhou City. The only extant remains of this Ming Dynasty structure is a tower platform 19



Lutijian Village in Daixian County is said to be the hometown of the Yang generals. The inscription on the horizontal board in the Yang Family Memorial Hall in the village has recorded the meritorious events of the Yang family.

built of bricks. Originally, the wall was built with stone slabs on the surface, but today the remaining sections have largely become cave dwellings.

At the northeast corner of the fort was a row of caves inlaid in the Great Wall. Passing one, I noticed there were a great number of people inside. Upon inquiry, I learned that it was a meeting hall for Christians from the surrounding villages. The local church, which had been in existence for two or three years, used this cave as a gathering place. The walls of the cave were covered with posters written with quotes from the Bible. The portrait of Jesus Christ near the entrance gave the place a solemn, religious atmosphere.

In the dead of winter, the road from Shuozhou to my next stop, Ningwu, was covered with a layer of ice. Trudging on the icy road, I found it so treacherously slippery that one careless step could lead to a bad fall. Yangfangbu Fort at Ningwu Pass, considered the first and foremost position of strategic importance in northern Shanxi, was a post for safeguarding Pianguan and Yanmen. If Ningwu fell, an advancing army could easily march unimpeded to Yanmen (Wild Goose Gate) Pass.

## The Temple of the Yang Generals

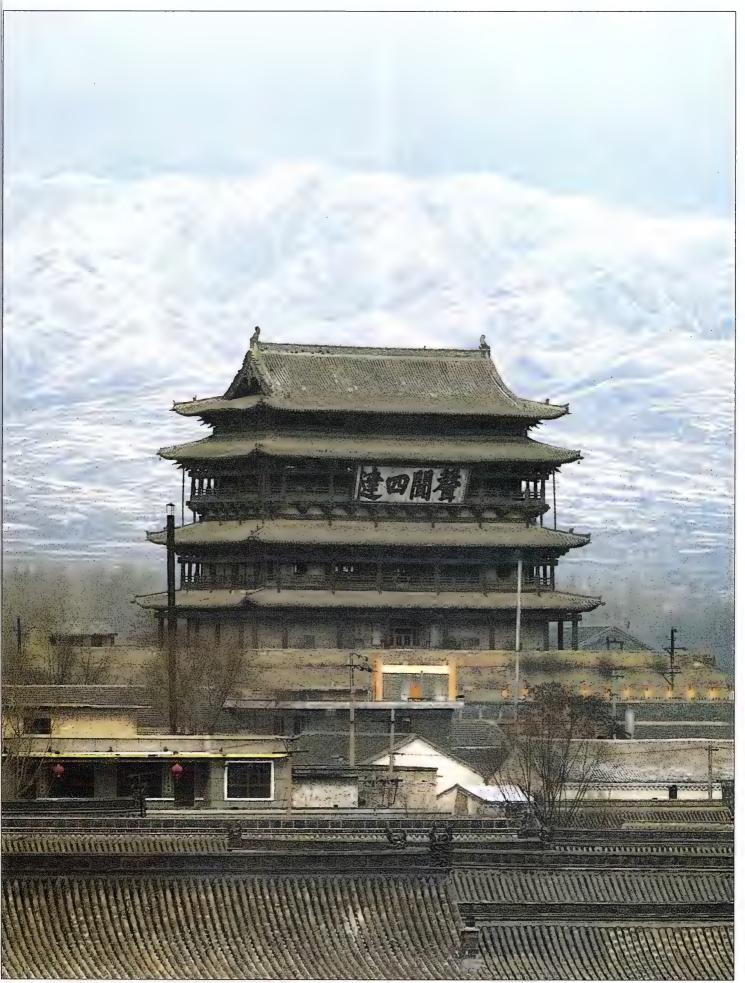
Yanmen Pass is formed by towering mountain peaks on both sides of the valley. Wild geese used to fly through the gate-like mountain pass, hence its name. When northern ethnic tribes descended upon the Central Plains, they invariably came through Yanmen

Pass en route to attacking Taiyuan in central Shanxi, Chang'an to the west in Shaanxi or Beijing in the east. It was thus no surprise that rulers of the Ming Dynasty always stationed large numbers of troops here.

At Yanmen Pass, there are two fortresses called Old and New Guangwu, both built during the Ming period. Slightly to the south of Old Guangwu Fortress is the site of the original Yanmen Pass fortification, which stood during the Tang and Song periods. During the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), it was the centre of ceaseless contention between the Song and Liao troops. Much of the literature describing the history of that period uses this place as its setting. The story about the Yang generals is one example of this genre of



The statues of the Yang generals are located in the memorial hall.



The drum tower in the city of Daizhou in Daixian County is also known as Bianjing (Border Peace) Tower, an expression of the local people's hopes for this border area. The snow-capped peaks of the Hengshan Mountains can be seen from the tower.



The Sujiang (Veteran General) Tower south of the Niangzi Pass and the section of the Great Wall built against the mountain in Pingding County look even more magnificent in the snow.



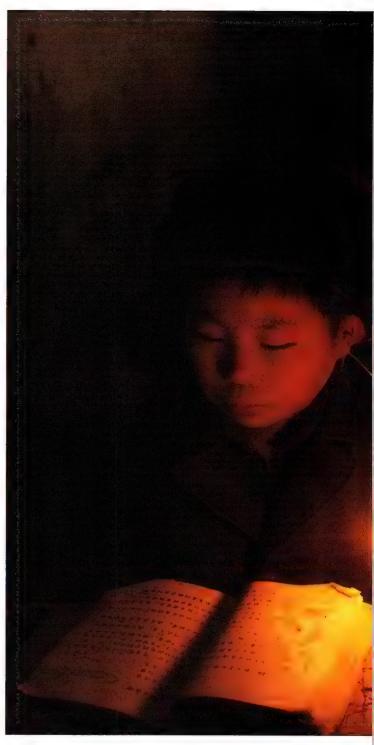
The wild sour jujube (Hippophae rhammoides) has recently been used for the production of a health tonic.



The ruins of a gateway outside Pingxing Pass witnessed the Pingxingguan Battle during the War of Resistance Against Japan.



Yang generals are now valuable historical relics.

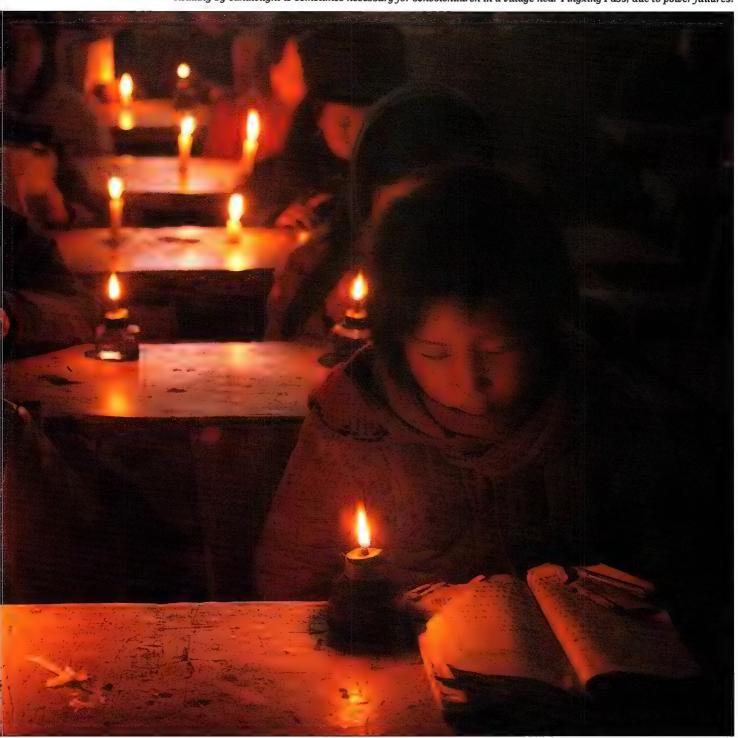


The Yang family became famous in the region during the Northern Song Dynasty, when many of its members gained outstanding reputations for their military deeds. A temple dedicated to the Yang generals still stands in Zaolin Town, Daixian County, and the descendants of the Yang generals live here today. The temple of the Yangs, also known as the Yang Temple of Military Loyalty, was first built during the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) and has undergone periodic renovations. The temple is now maintained by the 38th generation of Yangs.

The cultural relics preserved in the temple include a nine-metre-long record of the Yang family tree, as well as quivers and knee protectors actually employed by the Yang generals. Statues of the generals are placed in the main hall, while the side rooms are furnished with colour paintings depicting the military exploits of the Yangs. I searched in vain for sculptures of the legendary women generals of the Yang family, but after inquiry I discovered that the stories about them were simply literary creations and could not be verified.

## Pingxing Pass and Niangzi Pass

The next pass which I visited was Pingxing, south of the Hengshan Range. A valley in the shape of a bottle helps maintain control over its eastern entrance,



through which the Hutuo River flows. During the Song period, the settlement here was called Bottle Village. The Ming period saw the erection of the Great Wall in this area, complete with pass castles and beacon towers. To the east is Lingqiu County, which borders on Hebei Province, thus any enemy forces breaching the pass here would pose a direct threat to Beijing. Consequently, Pingxing Pass became a major transportation point. The size of the remaining pass gates indicates that in bygone days, only one cavalryman was allowed through at a time.

After Pingxing Pass, I came to the last stop of my journey — the Niangzi (Women's) Pass. Located in Pingding County on the border between Shanxi and Hebei Provinces, the pass is located on the route between Taiyuan,

capital of Shanxi and Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei. A well-known strategic position along the road leading to Beijing, the pass was once known as the "Ninth Pass Under Heaven". Built during the reign of Emperor Jiajing (r. 1522-1566), the castle at the pass remains mostly intact.

The name of this pass, according to one legend, is associated with Princess Pingyang, daughter of Emperor Gaozu (r. 618-626) of the Tang Dynasty. For years, she fought together with her father and became well-versed in the art of warfare. She commanded an army of over 70,000 soldiers, many of whom were women, thus the army was also known as the Women's Army. She and her troops were stationed at this pass and won many battles against invaders, often defeating

superior numbers of enemy forces with much smaller numbers of defensive forces. Later people named the pass Women's Pass in honour of Princess Pingyang and her women soldiers.

Today in the castle pass there is only one street, and with its stone-paved surface it looks quite authentic. The gate tower still stands and visitors can go to the top of this embrasured structure. I went up to the hill slope east of the tower and enjoyed a charming view of the snow-covered gate tower and the Taohe River below. Beneath my feet was a railway tunnel, reminding me that it was time for me to leave the past and return to the modern world.

Translated by Huang Youyi

## A Suggested Tourist Route for Visitors to the Great Wall in Shanxi

TEXT BY SHAN XIAOGANG

To visit the Shanxi section of the Great Wall one can take a flight from Shenzhen, Guangzhou or Beijing to Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, and then go by train to Datong. With Datong as one's base, the specific route of this tour can be arranged as follows.

Take a train from Datong to Yanggao, the county seat, where a long-distance bus shuttles back and forth to Changcheng (Great Wall) Village. Here, a section of the Great Wall with densely-constructed beacon towers and watchtowers still stands intact. The excursion to Changcheng can be a day trip from Yanggao.

From Yanggao proceed to Tianzhen County by train. Bus and mini-bus services are available betwee. the county seat and the town of Xinpingbu, located at the juncture of Shanxi, Inner Mongolia and Hebei. Close to the Great Wall, the town has several sites at its southern and northern parts where one can view a large section of the Great Wall and some of the wall's monumental watchtowers. In addition, one can see from the bus the magnificent sight of the Great Wall undulating along the mountain range.

Return to Datong and take a long-distance bus to Buziwan in Xinrong Prefecture. Get off in the vicinity of Deshengbu or at the breach of the Great Wall bordering Inner Mongolia. From here walk one to two kilometres eastward along the wall, where one can see such historic sites as the ruins of an ancient horse market from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Desheng Pass, Shichang Fort and Desheng Fort. The city walls of the two forts remain undamaged, and the layout of the forts designed during the Ming Dynasty are still visible. The gates are well preserved and the sections on the north and east sides of the Great Wall also remain intact.

From Xinrong Prefecture, a 90-minute bus ride takes you to the county seat of Zuoyun. Known as Woniu (Reclining Ox) City in ancient times, Zuoyun was a commercial town during the Ming Dynasty, second only to the ancient city of Datong. At that time, the temples and monasteries here were even more superb than those in Datong. Unfortunately, they were all destroyed in the flames of war, leaving only some sections of the broken temple walls unscathed. It is wise to hire a car to visit this place or you might not be able to get back to town on the same day. Most of the sections of the Great Wall here stand close to the main highway, so going by car is quite convenient.

It takes only half an hour to travel from Zuoyun to Youyu County, and shuttle buses are

numerous. From Youyu a long-distance bus goes past Shahukou, a famous pass on the Great Wall. The structures of the old pass have been demolished, but the fort still exists. One can easily imagine what this prosperous trading port must have looked like in ancient times. Visitors can contact the Shahu government office inside the pass for accommodations. Return to the county seat the next day.

On the way to Pinglu Prefecture (formerly Pinglu County), one can get off to visit the ancient city of Pinglu. Ancient shops still stand in the city centre and the city walls and gates have been left undamaged. In Pinglu, historic sites can be found everywhere, making a trip here more than worthwhile. After this, take a mini-bus (there are several runs a day) to Jingping, the present governmental seat of Pinglu Prefecture, and stay the night at the government guesthouse.

A bus journey to Pianguan along the broad and smooth asphalt road gives one a good view of Laoying Fort at the crossing of the Inner and Outer Great Walls. A better way, however, is to hire a car to reach this site after arriving at the county seat. Being one of the nine border towns of strategic importance, Pianguan was once the general station for the Taiyuan garrison. The Great Wall here features both the inner and outer walls with densely erected watchtowers and a 15-kilometre section built skirting the Yellow River. A highway links the sections of the Great Wall at Laoying, Shuiquan, Hualinbu and Wanjiazhai. The best transport option is to go by hired car or taxi, but few taxi drivers are willing to go to Wanjiazhai; they usually charge a very high fare. The beacon towers and watchtowers in this county are representative architectural structures of this region - the essence of the Shanxi section of the Great Wall. If time permits, make an in-depth tour of the site and you will be greatly rewarded.

Then take a bus again to Shuozhou and stay at the Shuozhou Guesthouse. The next day return to Limin or Liminbu, an ancient fort at this section of the Inner Great Wall. Convenient bus service allows visitors to return to Shuozhou on the same day. On the way from Shuozhou to Ningwu County, get off at Yangfangkou. Standing on the ruins of the Inner Great Wall on a mountain slope one can view the wall running eastward. A watchtower on the Great Wall can also be seen in the town. From here a motor tricycle (price is about three to five yuan) will bring you to Dashuikou Village 2.5 kilometres away. This route goes through the Inner Great Wall. After returning to Yangfangkou, proceed by train or bus to the

county seat of Ningwu, a 30-minute ride. Ningwu is the site of the noted Ningwu Pass along the Inner Great Wall. Not many historic sites are left in the pass city, except some sections of the wall on the northwestern slope of the mountain. To this day the place is still a passage of strategic importance for both south-north and east-west communications.

Next, take a train to Yuanping and change to another train bound for Daixian, the site of the ancient city of Daizhou. Daizhou's magnificent drum tower, called the Bianjing (Border Peace) Tower, is the first of its kind in Shanxi. The Asoka Pagoda of the Liao Dynasty (916-1125) is another tourist attraction worth visiting. Stay the night at Yanmenguan Hotel, then the next day take a long-distance bus or taxi to visit the ancient Yanmen Pass atop Yanmen Mountain 20 kilometres away. On the third day take a trip to Lutijian Village, hometown of the Yang generals, located ten kilometres from the town. The Yang Family Memorial Hall in the village is dedicated to Yang Ye, a famous general of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). Visitors can watch martial arts demonstrations put on by the villagers, who have traditionally greatly valued these skills.

Next, go by train to Pingxingguan and from there walk 15 kilometres to Guangou Village, where you can stay the night. The following day walk five more kilometres to Pingxingling Pass, then another five kilometres downhill through the pass to Pingxingbu Village — the site of Pingxing Pass. Outside the north gate is an attached city in the shape of a semicircle, the thick gate of which still survives. This city is listed as one of the historical monuments under state protection, in memory of the well-known Pingxingguan Battle during the War of Resistance Against Japan. Unless you are lucky enough to hitch a ride on a motor tricycle driven by one of the villagers, continue your journey on foot to the Hengjian Railway Station six kilometres away. The train will take you back to Taiyuan, where you can stay at the Shanxi Grand Hotel, the most well-appointed hotel in the

The next day take the Taiyuan-Shijiazhuang train to Niangziguan. Arriving at about 11:00 in the morning, one has sufficient time to visit Niangzi Pass, which is only one kilometre from the railway station. At 2:00 in the afternoon, get on the train coming from Shijiazhuang to Taiyuan to return to your starting place.

Translated by K. V. Ku

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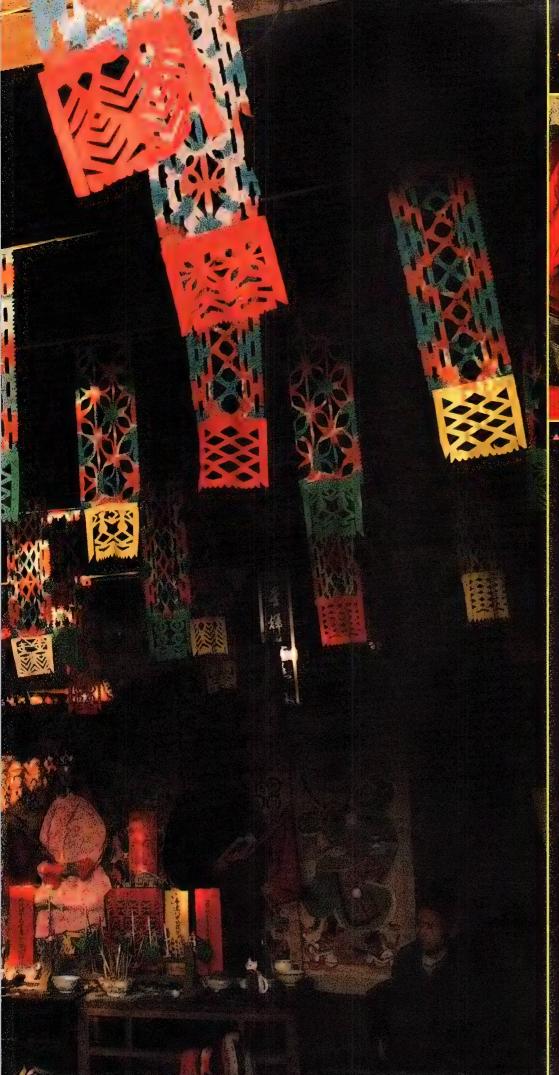
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The nuo ceremonial hall has been well furnished and now awaits the right hour for the seven-day event to begin.



▲ The "auo father" is the main character in the auo ceremony.

VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY

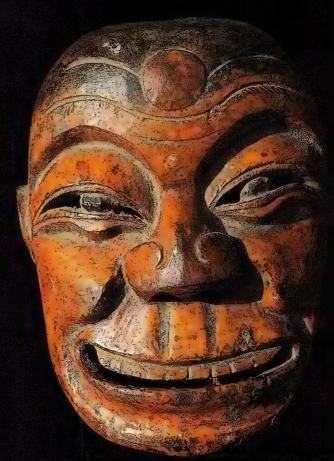
# The Mysterious Nuo Ceremonies of Guizhou's Tujia Minority

PHOTOS BY ER DONGQIANG ARTICLE BY LI JIE uring a recent visit to Taiping Town in Jiangkou County, northeastern Guizhou, I witnessed the elaborate *nuo* rituals of the Tujia people, a local ethnic minority. The word *nuo* literally means "exorcism" and the purpose of the ritual is to chase away any ghosts in the area that might cause harm or bring bad luck to the people. Apart from the complicated religious proceedings, there were also *nuo* operas and a host of strange performances, which added a mysterious colour to the ancient and primitive atmosphere of the event.

## Originating in the Central Plains

The *nuo* rituals and customs, which can only be seen in certain southwestern regions such as Yunnan, the western part of Hunan and in particular northeastern Guizhou, have their roots in the ancient customs of the Central Plains.

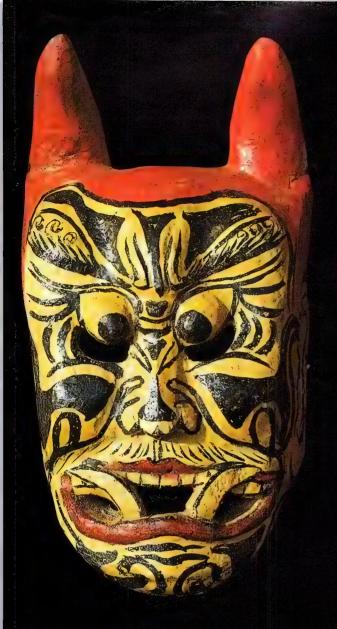
As early as during the Shang Dynasty (c. 16th-11th centuries B.C.), people in the Central Plains were already doing a kind of religious ritual dance, called the *nuo* dance, as a simple ceremony to make sacrifices to gods and chase away ghosts and evil spirits. The dance developed during the Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), Tang (618-907) and Song (960-1279) Dynasties, over time acquiring greater solemnity and complexity. Gradually, it also took on the role of simply being fun for the performers themselves, and of providing entertainment for others. As time went by the plot of the performances became much more complicated, eventually giving rise to *nuo* operas. After the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911)



▲► Masks are major props in nuo operas, with different masks representing different characters in the plays



The paper money offered to spirits and gods is made by the villagers themselves.



periods, however, *nuo* dances and operas gradually lost their popularity. Fortunately this form of art, after being introduced to Southwest China — which is widely inhabited by ethnic minorities — gained momentum in its development. Particularly in northeastern Guizhou, the cultural environment, isolated geographical conditions and variety of ethnic groups provided an ideal setting for its revival. The northern and eastern parts of Guizhou and Hunan, historically the territory of the State of Chu during the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.), were the sites of a very strong Chu influence on the *nuo* customs of the people in this region. Roving sorcerers also helped introduce to Guizhou varied forms of an opera loosely translated as "spirit head and ghost face", popular in the Central Plains during the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279).

During the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), the Han people (the Chinese majority) moved in large numbers to Guizhou, bringing with them two religious forms: Buddhism and Taoism, whose rituals were widely adopted by the local ethnic minorities. As time passed, a complete set of *nuo* rituals began to take shape. Though the ethnic minorities took Fu Xi and Nü Wa—regarded as the first human beings in Chinese legends—as their gods, Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian gods sometimes were also worshipped in *nuo* temples, thanks to the influence of the Han sorcerers. As a result of these developments, *nuo* dances and operas became religious activities unique to China's southwest, especially in northeastern Guizhou.

Today whenever there is a special occasion, such as a good harvest, a wedding, a birthday celebration or a Chinese festival, and



To make home-made candles, wrap grass around sharpened bamboo sticks and drop them into melted white wax, repeating the process several times.



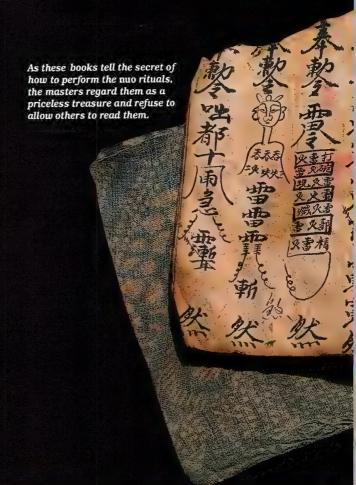
The "nuo father and mother" are ubiquitous statues of divinity in nuo ceremonial halls.

even when there is a disaster in the mountainous regions of Guizhou, people willingly spend money to have the ceremonial rituals guaranteed to chase away ghosts and ward off trouble.

## Grand Ceremonies and Masters of Ritual

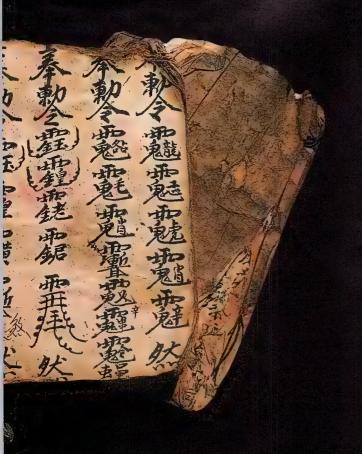
The day I arrived in Taiping, a family hosting a *nuo* ceremony was searching for ritual masters from the surrounding towns. This time six or seven of them came; the number is usually decided by the extent of the ceremony, which may last one, three, five or even seven days, depending on the economic might of the host family. This time, it was going to be a seven-day event, with the blessing of Fu Xi and Nû Wa and some 20 other gods, in order to bring the people good luck and a smooth life ahead. It is said that more ritual masters mean more reciting of religious scriptures and prayers, which in turn will enlist the help and blessings of more spirits. For practical purposes, since a great part of the religious scriptures have been lost, it inevitably takes six or seven experienced ritual masters to recite the complete set of *nuo* classics. The masters are all specialists in different areas, and to perform their duties they use tools such as masks, gongs, drums and costumes.

As there are a number of ritual masters involved, there must be a leader, normally someone engaged in agriculture, only acting as a leader of *nuo* ceremonies on a part-time basis. However, he must have received religious education, complete with diploma, and be accepted by local residents as a leader. He is assisted by a group of





Masters write incantations to communicate with ghosts and spirits.



five to seven people, who alternate beating the drum and gong, reciting, and performing short operas. They are kept quite busy, with the leader presiding over the whole event.

## A Ceremony in Two Parts

The seven-day *nuo* ceremony consists of two parts: *nuo* breaking and realizing the wish. The Chinese character for *nuo* is made up by two component parts meaning "person" and "difficulty", giving the word the connotation that people have run into difficulties. *Nuo* breaking means that a ceremony is held to help people break away from difficulties and disasters. Having done that, the blessings of the gods are welcomed and received, which is the "realizing the wish" part of the ceremony.



These worn-out books are sacred classics, instructing the masters on how to perform their duties (by Shang Yuanhua).



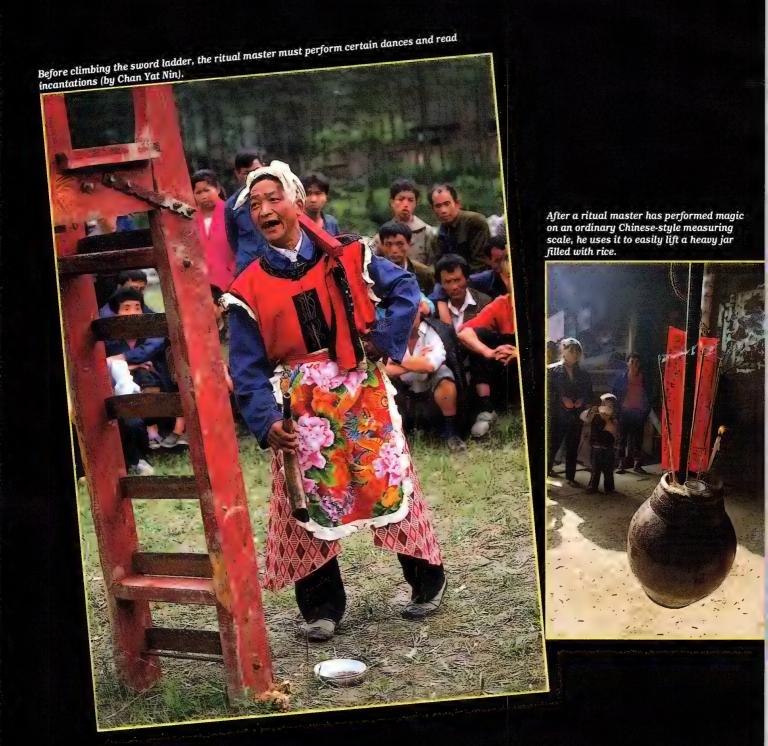
everyone in the host family is busy before the ceremony begins. This man is making flags to be used as symbols of authority.

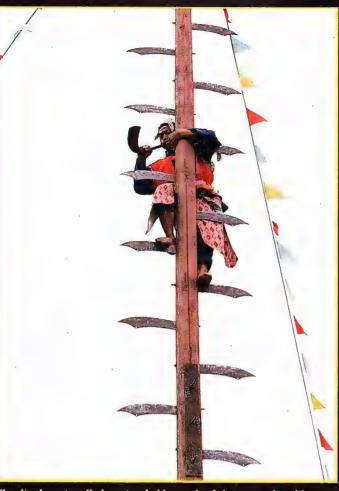
In order to perform the *nuo* ceremony, which involves going through a set of complicated rituals and reciting long scriptures, the masters have to prepare in advance by reading hand-copied books and reviewing scriptures. The whole day before the ceremony, every member of the host family is busy, making paper money and paper-cut decorations to put in the hall where the ceremony is to take place. As there is still no electricity in these mountain areas, candles must be used to light up the venue.

## Furnishing the Ceremonial Hall

There are specific rules with regard to the interior furnishing of the ceremonial hall. In the square hall, portraits of various spirits are hung in the middle of the wall facing the door. Below the portrait are two huge square tables laden with all kinds of sacrificial items candles, paper money and the tools used by the head master. Thes include items such as a knife, an ox-horn, a magic belt, a tablet of decrees and mud statues with plastic heads representing the "father and "mother" of *nuo* hoisted on top of bamboo poles. The masks if the baskets underneath the tables are used for performing *nuo* operas and dances.

The corners of the hall are reserved for the musicians, who beat drums and gongs. The centre of the room functions as the stage. It table off to one side is used as an altar, on which are placed candles tablets of the gods, plus the other props needed for the ceremony.





The ritual master climbs onto a ladder made of sharp swords, with on-lookers becoming so nervous they break into a cold sweat (by Chan Yat Nin).

In the evening, once the ceremonial hall is properly furnished, the nuo breaking officially begins. Entering the hall, one is first greeted by black smoke curling upwards and burned paper ashes being scattered. The whole room is permeated with a mysterious, magical atmosphere.

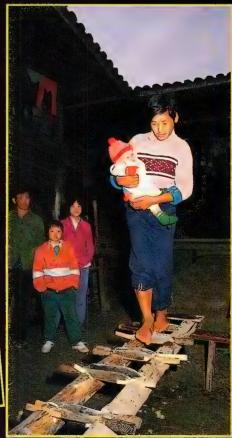
When the time comes, the leader of the ritual masters stands in front of the images of the "nuo father and mother", recites the nuo scriptures, drinks some wine, repeats the scriptures and every now and then scatters some wine on the ground as a gesture of respect and worship to the gods. It goes on and on like this, with the ceremony lasting all night. Before the last cockcrow announces daybreak, the masters have accomplished their job of chasing away the ghosts and sending off the gods who came to help them with the task.

## Realizing the Wish

Though realizing the wish, the second part of the activity, is more or less the same as nuo breaking in procedure, the religious rituals involved are much more complicated.

Early next morning, the host family sets off firecrackers to welcome the arrival of various gods. The head ritual master beats the drum and gong and calls out loudly the titles of the gods. Suddenly, as if he has heard the footsteps of the gods, the master dances while quickly putting on his ritual garments. Sending out a horse to meet





Holding a baby in his arms, this man walks on a sword "bridge" while praying that the baby will live a life free from disaster.

the gods, the head ritual master holds a sword in one hand and blows on an ox-horn in front of the gate. A while later, the horse returns and the hosts kneel in front of it. This means that the gods have dismounted outside the ceremonial hall.

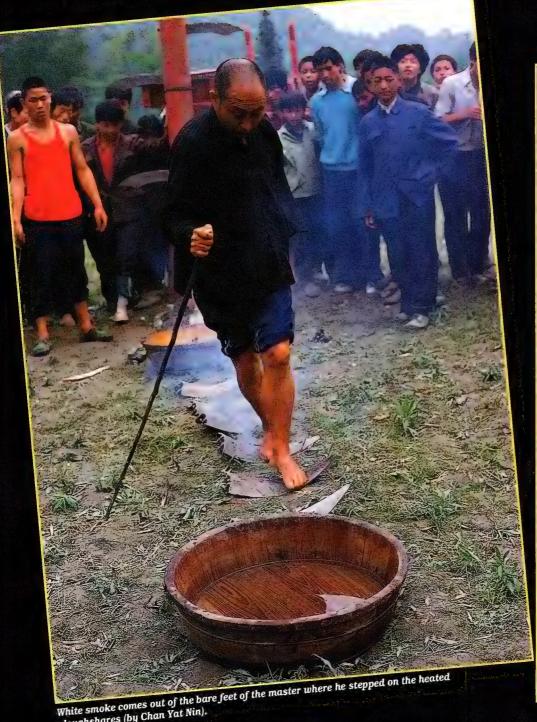
After the gods have arrived, announcements are made to the public informing them of the time schedule for the ceremony. At the same time, requests are made to the gods, asking for their assistance in ensuring the success of the event. Neighbours and friends of the people hosting the ceremony start flocking to the ceremonial hall.

In fact, whenever there is a nuo ceremony, villagers enthusiastically attend, since in this remote and isolated mountainous region, there are few recreational activities and an event like this is of un-

usual importance. As the ceremony always takes place during slack farming seasons, people also have the free time to come and share in the fun.

According to local custom, when the villagers arrive, they must pay a nominal fee for admission. The first item on the agenda is praying to the kitchen god, after which comes the slaughtering of animals for the rituals. As a rule, at least a chicken is killed, but since this family is relatively well-to-do, the number of animals slaughtered is quite large.

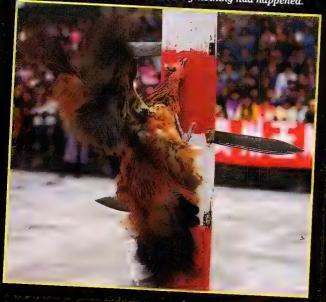
To prevent ghosts from making trouble during the ceremony and to guarantee its success, the leading ritual master uses his ability to communicate with the ghosts, at the same time luring them in with money and food.



ploughshares (by Chan Yat Nin).



This chicken was first given magic powers by the nuo master and then nailed onto a wooden pole. When thirty minutes later it is released, it is as lively and active as if nothing had happened.



#### Mysterious Dances and Feats of Magic

A person then enters the hall, holding a large plate with candles, fresh flowers, tea, cakes, fruit and jewellery, followed by two others. One is wearing a *nuo* hat and felt skirt and is holding 12 sticks of red incense, the other is dressed up as a bride and holds a fan and a towel in his hands. Together they call out the titles of the gods and ask, "Are the ten sacrifices ready?" The rest of the people answer, "Yes, ready." At this moment, five people come into the hall holding hands and dance together in a circle, now clockwise, now counterclockwise. Their movements are simple, yet give the impression of great strength.

Next two men holding a flag and sword begin performing. The head ritual master and his assistants, all wearing ferocious-looking masks, join in. They shake their heads and move their hands in mysterious gestures, continuing until the wee hours.

Gin Boy Selling a Pig is the name of one of the lively and humorous nuo operas.



On the third day, the ceremony goes on outside of the hall, since the upcoming series of exciting magic performances demand more space. The first item is "climbing the sword ladder". The ritual masters, wearing red costumes, recite incantations and do the *nuo* dance. They blow ox-horns, burn pieces of paper with written incantations and rub magic water on their feet. After two rounds of this, they slowly climb onto the sword ladder bare-footed.

They also perform other feats of magic, each with his own specialty such as "crossing the sword bridge", swallowing glass, walking with bare feet on red-hot ploughshares, holding heated metal in one's mouth, and putting one's hand into boiling oil, all to the astonishment and bewilderment of the spectators.

#### The Last Item - Nuo Operas

On the fourth day, a ritual is launched to "open the cave", meaning to let out the opera actors. In other words, this ritual proclaims the beginning of *nuo* opera performances.

The seven-day event comes to an end after an elaborate dinner to thank the participants.



It is late at night, but the crowd watching the auo operas shows no sign of either tiredness or willingness to leave (by Chan Yat Nin).



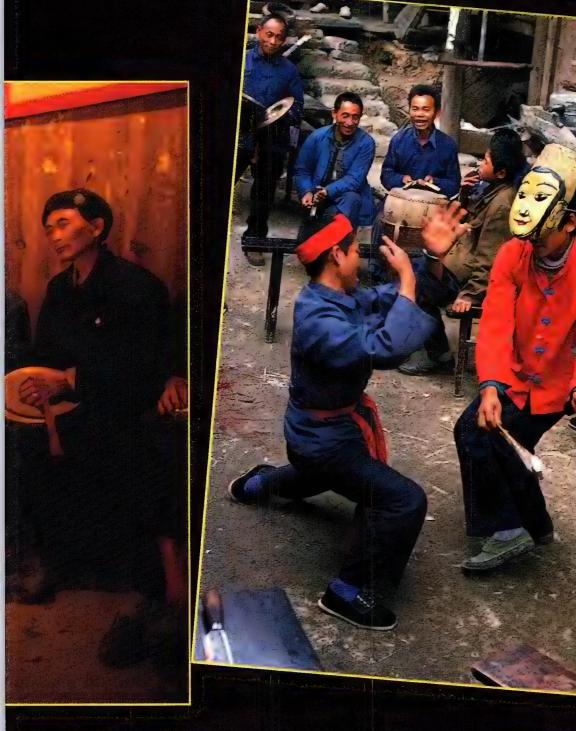
Facial masks are the most important props for *nuo* opera. As in Chinese opera, different masks represent different characters in the play. Before the "cave opening", the head master has to "invite" each legendary opera character in by placing money on the mask, offering "him" wine and begging "him" to go on the stage. When this process is done, the masks are put on a table for use during the performance. I took a close look at the 200-year-old masks and found them well-made with simple but varied images.

To the villagers, *nuo* operas performed by the masters are the most appealing part of the entire *nuo* ceremony. This part of the event usually lasts two to three days. There are quite a variety of *nuo* 

operas, ranging from historical stories about conquering demons and subduing ghosts, to highly entertaining stories such as martial arts tales. The festive atmosphere of *nuo* operas has entirely replaced the original solemn and mysterious air of days gone by.

The operas are performed one after another until the seventh day of the ceremony, when a delicious meal is prepared. Before dinner the host family gives thanks to all present, and the head master delivers a speech in which he officially proclaims the successful close of the event. He then takes off his costume, indicating the end of his role as ritual master, and the entire event ends with everyone enjoying a hearty meal. **E**Translated by Huang Youyi

All the roles in nuo operas are executed by men only. They use exaggerated gestures to show the male and female characters.



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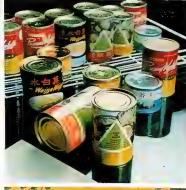
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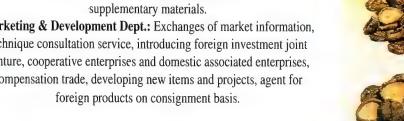
### SCOPE OF BUSINESS

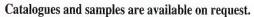
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7th Business Dept.: Timber & Timber Products 8th Business Dept.: Feeding Stuffs, Flowers, Plants & Others 9th Business Dept.: Forestal Products & Others

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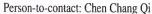






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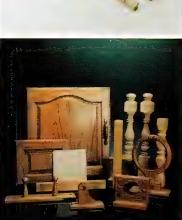
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# Revisiting the Silk Road

—Ten Years of Change

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY MA YIU CHUN





n September 6, 1982, seven young Chinese men from Hong Kong boarded an old diesel engine trads and began a year long formey across the vast land that is China. Ten years later on the exact same date, these seven men took their wives on a return visit, to retive some of their experiences and to writ old friends they had made during their travels.

Ten years later in the day, the seven men plus their travelling companions and friently med Tribs Dangjiana Resignment in Cambackou telers their return crop to the SILs Road.



The newly-built five-star Holiday Inn Hotel in Urümqi is equipped with deluxe facilities and attracts many tourists.

Ten Years Ago

The ten years that have passed since our last China adventure seem to have flown by. Great changes have taken place in China and elsewhere, but memories of our experiences during that trip keep coming back. Even with the wisdom of hindsight, I still find it hard to comprehend why I left my job. gave up everything I had in Hong Kong, parted with my relatives and friends, used almost all the savings I had accumulated over the years and spent more than a year of my life travelling in China.

Perhaps the inspiration that moved me was that, ever since my childhood I have been fascinated by the celebrated scenery,

the long history and the rich culture of China. Or perhaps I was attracted by places that, for Chinese people, are of great historical significance, such as Chang'an in Shaanxi, Luoyang in Henan and the Yangtse and Yellow Rivers. As I was growing up, the idea of visiting China's mainland gradually took root in my mind. In fact, before our long journey in 1982, I took advantage of summer vacations and visited Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Jiangsu, Shanghai and Zhejiang with my schoolmates. The capital city, the deserts, the grasslands, the towns networked by canals south of the Yangtse and China's five great mountains — it all had a profound impact on me. After that maiden voyage, I became even more interested in China and longed to return. After I left school and took a job, I visited China many times whenever I had free time, even if it was only two or three days. As time went by, I found these brief forays unsatisfying, and began to think just how wonderful it would be if some day I could wander through China without any constraints or worries, just like the great Chinese geographer Xu Xiake (1586-1641) did nearly four centuries ago.

When I first brought up the idea of a China-wide journey with some of my classmates, they all found it interesting and we decided to go as a group. In order to increase our knowledge of China and to better understand what we would see on the trip, we did a great deal of research on China's politics, economy, history, geography and culture. We met regularly and eventually decided upon our travel route, which would start in Guangzhou and take in 22 of China's provinces and autonomous regions, plus Beijing. It would take us over a year to complete the grand tour.

As total satisfaction of all of our wishes is impossible in an imperfect world, it turned out that some of us could only make a symbolic trip to Guangzhou because of the demands of family or work. Still others could only spend half a year and therefore could go along with only part of the plan. In the end I was the only one to complete the entire project. After that journey, in 1984 I began working for Hong Kong China Tourism Press, for one principal reason: my responsibilities would periodically take me back to the mainland on reporting and photography assignments. In other words, I could continue my travel plans while continuing my career — the best of both worlds!

#### Ten Years On

Our circumstances since that last trip have of course changed, and as we now all had the responsibilities of a job and family, an entended trip through the entire country was out of the question. We therefore chose the section of the ancient Silk Road running through Xinjiang and Gansu as the destination of our two-week return visit. Since we had included this part of the country on our voyage a decade ago, a return trip would be meaningful for everyone. In addition, the scenery and ways

of life in Northwest China are very unique and appealed strongly to all of us. Most important was that we had friends there that we had met on our last trip, so seeing them and talking about the changes that have taken place since then would be both fun and informative.

On our last trip we began with seven young men, but this time our wives were included and one couple also took their five-year-old daughter along, making the group fifteen strong. We boarded a train and headed towards Guangzhou.

It was pouring hard in Guangzhou when we arrived. As we had arranged to meet an old friend, a Mr. Zhao outside a restaurant, we walked for a kilometre in the downpour.

We had dinner at the Dongjiang Restaurant, a place with special significance to the seven members of the original tour. Ten years ago or this day, we officially launched our trip with a dinner here. On December 24, 1983, I returned to Guangzhou upon completion of the grand tour, preparing to go back to Hong Kong. My friends came over from Hong Kong to escort me back home and we had a reunion dinner at the same restaurant. It seemed only natural that we start this trip here as well. Having been renovated, the restaurant had changed beyond recognition. We chatted with Mr. Zhao until 3:00 in the morning. We cherished the time we had together, as we knew that when the day broke, we would set out for Urümqi and no one could guess when we would see each other again.

Meeting Old Friends at Urümqi

The plane soared high over vast stretches of the Gobi Desert, ther past snow-capped mountains and across the remote western regions Everybody in the group was excited at the thought that we would soor meet with several friends we made ten years ago. It was the first time that any of our wives had come to Xinjiang and they were brimming with anticipation.

Recently great changes have taken place in Urümqi. This photo shows the contrast between the modern high-rise Holiday Inn Hotel in the centre and the old-style Hongshan Hotel on the left.

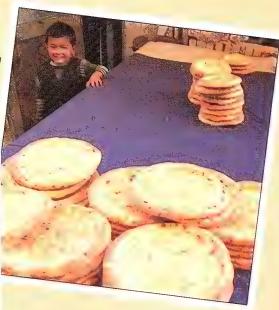




On the way to the Nanshan pastureland at Baiyang Gully, hundreds of sheep are slowly herded across the road.

▶ A staple of the Uygur diet, the flat bread called nang is somewhat similar to the bread used for making pizza in Italy.





◆ Once brought to China by foreigners along the Silk Road, spices are now sold everywhere on the streets of Urümqi.



The next day we began our tour of the city and our first stop was naturally the Liyushan Hotel. Our unusual experiences ten years ago made this rather simple hotel an unforgettable landmark. The hotel's façade had remained more or less the same, but the first two floors had been converted into clinics for the Urümgi Traditional Chinese Medical Hospital. The man who took us in last time had since retired and the

ship that has lasted till today. Qi, who came to the airport to meet us

this time, was one of those girls. Upon learning that we were now

coming to Xinjiang, she had sat on a bus for twelve hours all the way

from Alfay to meet us. I often think that unhappy experiences on travels

can turn out to be sources of fond memories. If we had not had diffi-

culties in finding lodging during our last trip, for example, we would not

have become friends with these girls.

a lunch of Clygur food for ten people cost only a little over 40 years.

This increasingly commercialized town, however, still maintained the strongly traditional way of life of the Uygurs: restaurants everywhere served kebabs, nang (baked Uygur bread), steamed mutton dumpling and Uygur rice, which is eaten with one's hand. Yengisar knives an square hats favoured by the Uygurs were the most popular souvenir Old men walked hurriedly in the streets wearing their unique Uygi smiles. All this helped remind us that Urümqi was once a majo commercial centre on the ancient Silk Road.

#### Tianchi Lake — Now a Popular Tourist Spot

The next day we took a bus and went to Tianchi Lake, the mo scenic spot in suburban Urümgi. I had been there twice before, the fir time in 1980. I was greatly impressed then by its unique beauty, the



Even in the morning the street bazaars in the northwestern city of Altay are bustling with activity.



mountain peaks cast their reflections on the take, which was surrounded by green pine trees, Indeed, it seemed to be a fairyland only imaginable in dreams

Now, a decade later I could not belp wondering what the situation at the lake would be like. As soon as the bus pulled out from the city proper, the young Kazakin conductor on the bus began to give out his business card to all the passengers from outside of China, saying that he could help them find Mongolian yurt hotels and arrange tourist activities such as horse-riding, cruises on the lake and mountaineering. Deciding that he seemed like an honest man, we agreed to check into the hotel that he recommended.

We arrived at the lake in about three hours, and even before the passengers could get off, over a dozen Kazakhs pushed their way into the bus, trying to convince the passengers to stay at the hotels they represented. I got off, looked around and saw some 30 to 40 Mongolian yurts on a small hill. Together with several one-storey brick houses, they formed a small village, all of which were hotels operated by the Kazakhs.

After we checked into one of the yurts, gaily decorated in the style of the Kazakhs, we took a horse ride to Denggan Hill. The horses were rented from local Kazakh herdsmen, and those who were not confident enough to ride by themselves had a guide lead the horse. The mountain path we took cannot be described as being excessively steep or zigzagging, but for inexperienced horse riders, it was nevertheless an arduous exercise. From the summit of Denggan Hill, one had a panoramic view of Tianchi Lake below. In the distance, Bogda Peak, which is covered with snow all year round, was barely visible in the foggy mist. The dense and tranquil pine forest around us was a pleasant contrast to the noisy world at the foot of the hill.

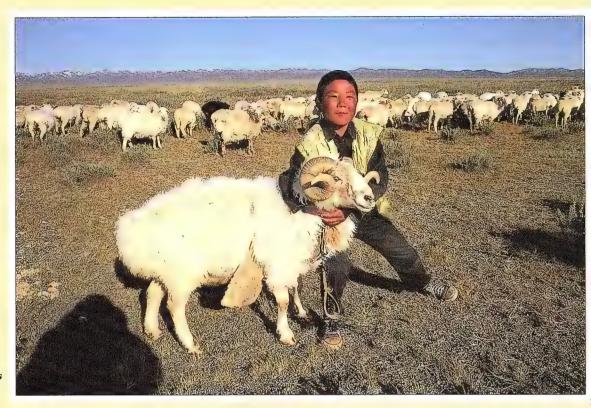
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#### Mid-Autumn Festival Celebrations at Urümqi

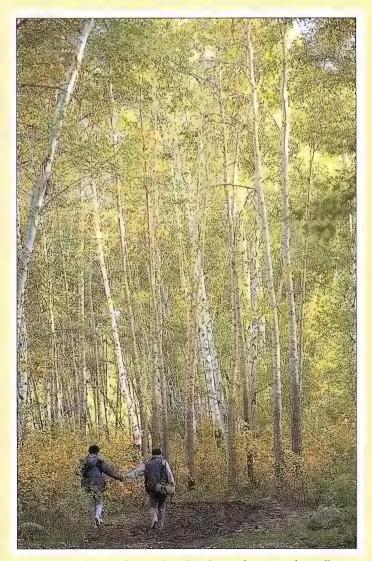
When we woke up the next morning, rain was falling rhythmically outside the Mongolian yurt. The rain made the road slippery and shattered our hopes of ascending the snow line and picking snowdrops, the lovely, white, bell-shaped flowers that grow in the region. Since we had already arranged to spend Mid-Autumn Festival at Ai's home the next day, we decided to take the noon bus to return to the city and see the lanterns at People's Park that evening. Lantern shows are held in many cities in China during the Mid-Autumn Festival, but to see the colourful lanterns in their various shapes and sizes in a remote town like Urumgi was something very special

We had brought with us from Hong Kong several kinds of moon cakes to share with our friends during the holiday. Ai's entire family busied themselves the whole afternoon preparing a feast of more than ten courses, including both cold and hot dishes, meats, vegetables, handmade noodles, mutton hotpot, Xinjiang-style moon cakes, Hami melons, watermelons and grapes.

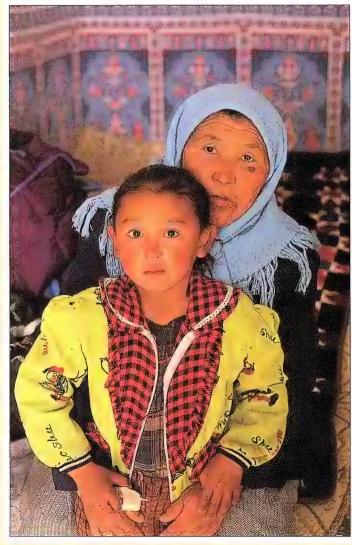
More significant than the food was the fact that though we were thousands of kilometres away from home, we enjoyed the festival together with good friends. I was particularly happy since it happened to be my birthday. My thoughts turned back to ten years ago when only Cheung and I were left to continue the trip. On Mid-Autumn Festival of that year, we came to a small village in the southwest of Guizhou. Cheung, concerned with his mother's health, decided to immediately go



A small Kazakh boy in Altay is already a good horseman and shepherd.

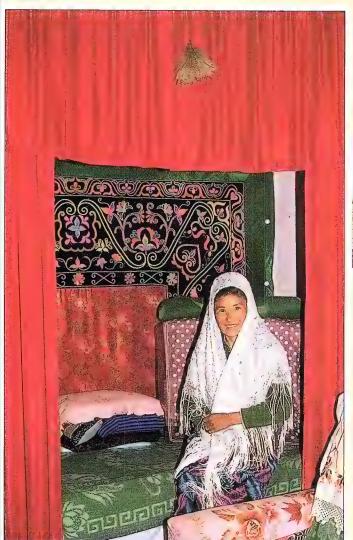


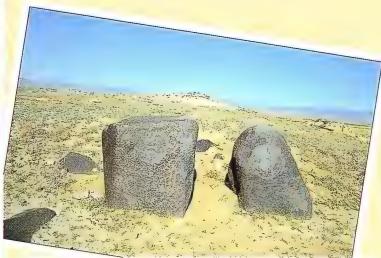
Birch Tree Park in Altay is a perfect place for a quiet, romantic stroll.



A pretty Kazakh girl sits with her grandmother.

Kazakh people still decorate their homes and wear clothes in the raditional style.









- ▲ These ancient tombs of the Tujue people (Turks) are carved with designs indicating that one is for a male and the other for a female. The photo at the bottom shows the tomb site, which is still intact, revealing burial practices quite different to those of other minority groups in China.
- ◀ Guests are always welcome by the Kazakh people, who generously serve up a traditional snack of tea and cheese.

back to Hong Kong and I was suddenly left miserably alone. Comparing that experience with the enjoyment of this festival made me feel fortunate indeed.

#### On the Way to Altay

The next day we set out for Altay in northern Xinjiang. Since Qi came all the way from her home in Altay to meet us in Urümqi, it was only fitting that we should accompany her back home. Besides, Altay is a major scenic spot in Xinjiang and everyone on the tour felt that we should go and have a look.

Situated on the southern side of the Altay Mountains, on the border between China, Kazakhstan and Mongolia, Altay is 800 kilometres from Urümqi. The town is noted for its production of gold and precious stones. We had planned to go there and come back by plane, but we were two tickets short, so we decided to take a mini-bus.

For this four-day trip, we hired our mini-bus from the Tianchi Travel Agency in the Hongshan Hotel. Both the driver and the manager from the travel agency were Kazakhs who were fluent in Mandarin. We departed from the hotel at 7:00 in the morning and believed that we could reach our first destination by around 8:00 or 9:00 in the evening. Unfortunately, the bus seemed to be a sick and aged person that occasionally refused to work, taking a much longer time on the road than planned. By 3:30 in the afternoon, we had barely managed to reach the oil town of Karamay, which was the mid-point of our trip. We filled the bus' gas tank and arrived at Urho at dusk, not far from the well-known Ghost City. This Ghost City is not really a town or city in the sense of a human settlement, but rather a place of strange terrain created by natural weathering. Here the strong winds blow up the sand and howl continuously, giving the place a rather terrifying atmosphere, hence its name. Pressed for time, we only spent a short while at Ghost City and finally drove into Altay at 2:30 in the morning.

#### Picturesque Kanas and Tangba Lakes

Quietly standing on China's northern border, Altay is truly another world compared to Hong Kong. The most famous scenic spot in Altay

is Kanas Lake, over 100 kilometres north of the city. Located in the most well-preserved virgin forest in Xinjiang, the lake seldom sees any human beings apart from a small number of Kazakh and Mongolian herdsmen. The whole forest has retained its original purity, free from the pollution caused by modern civilization. The cold, dry climate of Xinjiang keeps the lake frozen for much of the year, leaving just two to three months in summer suitable for tourism.

The lake area is almost completely cut off from the rest of the world and when we arrived, the road to the lake was covered with snow. W could only afford a short stay here, as our major purpose in coming wa to visit friends.

Afterwards, we spent some time sightseeing in the city of Altay an its immediate suburbs. Qi then took us to Tangba Lake, about a hour's drive from the city. This lake can by no means compare wit Kanas Lake in fame, but being surrounded by lush green grass an birch woods, it is an unusually enchanting sight. By the lake is a restaurant specializing in lake fish dishes, particularly known for its All-Fis Banquet. We had a meal there and greatly admired the work of the chefs. Whether steamed, stewed, or deep fried, every dish had uniquely delicious taste. Furthermore, the prices were excellent — for ten courses plus soup, we paid only 200 yuan.

#### Altay Mutton — The Best in Xinjiang

We spent the next day visiting a cemetery of the Tujue peopl (Turks), who have lived here since ancient times. Next we went to Birc Tree Park with its stunning autumn scenery, the only Kazakh hospital is the world, a leather mill and a precious stone company. In the meantime, everyone in Qi's family was mobilized in a sincere display of hospitality and for our last evening, Qi and her husband invited number of their local friends over, treating us all to a feast of muttor Altay has the tastiest mutton in all of Xinjiang, tender and free from an strong smell. Even those among us who never ate mutton in Hon Kong enjoyed the hearty meal. It was a most unforgettable evening Though our stay in Altay was rather short, the memory of the visit st remains. I wished then that we could have a few more days to get

This painting depicts the brisk and lively business activities found along the Silk Road at Dunhuang in ancient times.





'amous for its home-grown melons, ne can purchase the fruit anywhere n Lanzhou, an ancient city on the Hik Road.

➤ Many new forms of entertainment have been recently introduced to Dunhuang, including videos of movie stars from Hong Kong.



■ Being reunited with old friends after ten years of separation definitely calls for a toast.

better feel of the peaceful and simple life style of the people in this border town.

At 5:00 in the morning before it was light, we bid goodbye to Qi and drove south towards (Irümqi. The driver kept up a fast pace and an hour later, we saw the sun rising slowly on the grassland. We had in hand the collection of songs we compiled for the trip ten years ago, and sang each and every one. On the way we stopped at a Kazakh village for a snack. The restaurant owner was a relative of the driver's and greeted us warmly, treating us to milk tea and cheese, in keeping with their tradition. At about 4:00 in the afternoon, we came again to Karamay where we had a quick meal and then took to the road again. We did not reach (Irümqi until 2:00 in the morning.

Ten days had passed before we knew it. Some of us only had two weeks of holiday and there were other places to visit, so we reluctantly left Xinjiang. We felt sorry and frustrated that having waited for so long, our stay had to be condensed into ten days. We could only hope that ten years from now, we would meet once more.

According to our original itinerary, we planned to first go to Dunhuang and then Jiayuguan, the western end of the Great Wall. However, since some of us had to go back to work in Hong Kong very soon, we had to skip Dunhuang for the moment and go direct to Jiayuguan, as we wanted to see another friend, a Mr. Yu.

#### Clean and Peaceful Jiayuguan

The clean and peaceful city of Jiayuguan stands about a kilometre east of the tower at Jiayuguan Pass. Located in the suburbs, the Jiuquan Iron and Steel Works is one of the few major plants of its kind in the country. When it was first built, the staff came from older plants such as the Anshan Iron and Steel Complex in Liaoning and the Capital

Iron and Steel Company in Beijing. At the time, what is now called Jiayuguan City was just a patch of desert, and the city grew with the development of the iron and steel plant. Today two-thirds of the people in Jiayuguan, either themselves or their family members work at the Jiuquan Iron and Steel Works. The city and the plant are so dependent on each other that the locals say, "The iron plant gave rise to the city."

A decade ago, there were very few people on the streets in Jiayuguan, and buses were rarely seen even during working hours. I liked the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the city, and was pleasantly surprised to find that it was still very clean, and there were still no skyscrapers. The several tall buildings there were fit harmoniously into the surroundings. What struck me as the greatest change was that there were certainly more vehicles on the streets, especially the many motorcycles that served as taxis.

We climbed up the tower at Jiayuguan Pass once again. The ancient Great Wall stood silently in the vast desert, reminding us of its original purpose. The tower called to mind images of soldiers marching to war,

By now, there were only four of us left to continue our journey to Dunhuang, another major town on the Silk Road. Jiayuguan and Dunhuang are over 400 kilometres apart. By bus it takes almost a whole day, while by plane the journey lasts only 45 minutes. As our time was quickly running out, we chose the latter. Our plane from Lanzhou stopped at Jiayuguan for the loading and unloading of passengers and refuelling. We were greatly surprised to find that we were the only passengers left. After the plane's takeoff, two smiling air stewardesses came over to us, and instead of using the loudspeaker, spoke to us in person, informing us of the safety procedures for boarding a plane. The next moment they brought us hot coffee, making us feel as if we were on our own private plane.



In recent years, Dunhuang has undergone speedy development, hanging from a county seat into a city. Many shops in the street cater or the needs of tourists, selling souvenirs and arts and crafts. Lestaurants have signboards in both Chinese and English, and Shazhou larket in the city's centre bustles with activity. In the evening, karaoke ars, stands selling all kinds of local delicacies, teahouses and video ouses all enjoy brisk business. Seeing the present situation, one can asily imagine the former prosperity in this Silk Road town.

#### Mogao Grottoes to Be Closed to Visitors

The Thousand-Buddha Cave of the Mogao Grottoes in suburban runhuang is a renowned tourist spot. The Japanese in particular are scinated by the murals and coloured sculptures at the cave. You do ot really have to know anything about grotto art, just looking at the nurals portraying Buddhist stories and the beautifully-shaped, painted atues gives one admiration for the superb workmanship of ancient rtisans and painters. We learned from the guides at the cave that years being open to the public have accelerated the fading and decaying rocesses of the murals. To remedy the problem, contruction has ready begun on a museum in the desert outside the grottoes, which ill display replicas of the murals done by contemporary artists. Then he Mogao Grottoes will normally be closed, only opening on a rericted basis to scholars, artists and VIPs.

We also went to Mingshashan (Singing Sand Hill), which is formed ntirely of fine sand. In the valley of this unusually-shaped hill, there sed to be a spring which spurted out clear, sweet water. Its shape gave se to its name, the "Crescent Spring". When I was here ten years ago, I ould ride my bike to the foot of the hill, then climb to the top and atch the sunset. This time I tried to do the same, but when the four of

us got to the entrance to the hill we were suddenly greeted with the sight of numerous souvenir stands flanking the roadside. Within the hill area, dozens of camel tenders vied for customers to hire out their animals. I was a bit taken aback by the degree of commercialization at such a place as the Singing Sand Hill. I also had a hard time recognizing the Crescent Spring, as it had dried up and the site had become a construction area for the building of an imitation-style ancient tower. Not far away was a man-made lake, which clashed with the natural scenery of the sand hill. The Singing Sand Hill stands out for its unique terrain and geographical wonders. There are plenty of traditional-style towers and pavilions in other parts of the country. Why is it necessary for this kind of structure to be built right here?

We then took a plane to Lanzhou, where we would transfer for our flight back to Guangzhou. A large city in China's northwest, Lanzhou is the railway transportation hub for the five northwestern provinces. When I came to Lanzhou on a reporting assignment a couple of years ago, I found it already quite developed commercially and rich in material supplies. On this most recent trip, I went to the centre of the city, where there was even more business activity in the shops, department stores and fully-packed restaurants lining the streets. No wonder the man who was my guide here years ago had since given up his regular job and was now working as a private businessman. Like many of the changes we witnessed on this trip, it was something that would have been unthinkable ten years ago.

Translated by Huang Youyi

Many visitors to the Silk Road dream of riding camels in the desert, where they can experience a taste of life from days gone by.



# Three Suggested Itineraries for Visiting the Silk Road

Ma Yiu Chun

The ancient Silk Road starts in the city of Xi'an in Shaanxi Province and ends in Rome, Italy. For centuries people have been travelling and touring China's Silk Road, fascinated by its long history and unusual scenery. If you are planning a trip to China, you might want to consider a visit to part of this age-old trading route. Below we suggest three itineraries to choose from, depending on the amount of time one has:

#### 1. Short Tour of the Silk Road Highlights (2 weeks)

If you wish to see the most important and famous places along the Silk Road, you should include the following in your trip: Urümqi and Turpan in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, Dunhuang, Jiayuguan, Jiuquan and Lanzhou in Gansu Province and Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi Province. You can begin your trip in either Guangzhou or Beijing and fly directly to Urümqi. From there, take a train or long-distance bus to Turpan, then a train to the transit town of Liuyuan in Gansu, from where you can catch a long-distance bus to Dunhuang. Return to Liuyuan for further transport connections, and by bus or train proceed to Jiayuguan, then go by train to Lanzhou, by train again to Xi'an and then return by plane to Guangzhou or Beijing, or direct to Hong Kong.

#### 2. Extended Tour (3-4 weeks)

Basing your trip on the short tour, an addition of another week will give you enough time to go to the city of Altay and Kanas Lake in northern Xinjiang. If you would like to visit some other interesting and slightly more out-of-the-way places, we recommend Shihezi, Yining, Sayram Lake

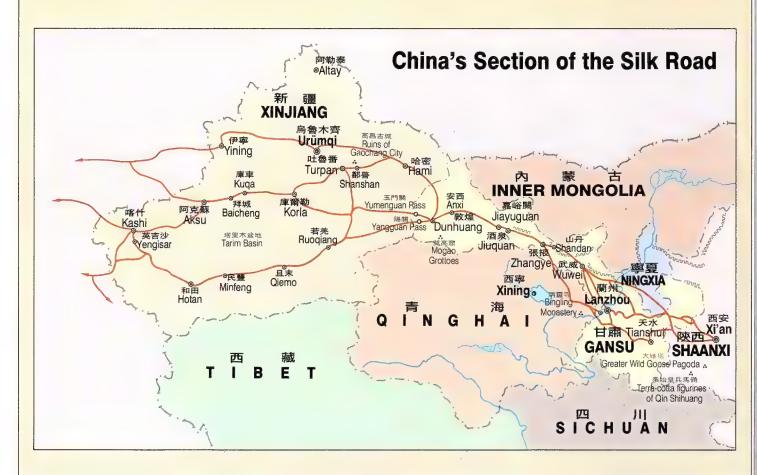
and the Bayanbulak Steppe, all in Xinjiang Province. Both domestic flights and buses are available, and another week or so will be required. Otherwise, you can spend two or three days visiting Hami in Xinjiang, or Zhangye, Wuwei or Tianshui in Gansu, which are situated along the Lanzhou-Xinjiang railway line.

The best months to visit this region of China are June and July. It starts to get cold in August and snow can start falling as early as September, so if you do go in autumn or spring, be sure to bring plenty of warm clothes!

#### 3. Long Tour (4-6 weeks)

If you would really like a taste of the life of an ancient caravan traveller along the Silk Road, go through the Taklimakan Desert in southern Xinjiang. Transport here is not as convenient as in other more populated areas, therefore a more flexible schedule is needed. In places such as Kuqa, Aksu, Kashi and Hotan, plus in the desert border towns of Minfeng, Qiemo and Ruoqiang, people still live according to the traditional ways of their ancestors, making a trip to these towns both educational and extremely interesting.

Urümqi has domestic flights to Aksu, Kashi and Hotan, as well as long-distance bus services to Minfeng, Qiemo, Ruoqiang and other towns. Both buses and planes, however, do not go to these places frequently, so there may be a wait of several days for a connection. Thus, we recommend this tour only for those with no time constraints.





## 青島紡織品聯合進出口公司 Qingdao Associated Textiles Import & Export Corp.

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青島紡織品聯合進出口公司成立於1982年,是經國家 批准的、具有法人地位的工貿結合、進出口結合的新型外 貿企業。本公司以出口各類紡織品爲上,並進口紡織原料、 染化料和針織品輔料等。

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Qingdao Associated Textiles Import and Export Corporation was established in 1982. It is a new foreign-trade enterprise with both trade-industry and import-export businesses. Ratified by the State, the corporation exports various textiles and imports textile raw materials, dye-stuffs, chemicals and auxiliary materials for knitted goods.

The corporation consists of a number of mills and factories such as textile mills, dyeing and printing mills, knitting mills, towel mills, bed sheet factories and tablecloth factories, as well as garment factories, which possess advanced equipment and highly skilled technical work forces. Products from the corporation are of fine quality and come in many categories and colours. With its elegant designs and fresh ideas, the corporation enjoys great popularity among its customers. The honouring of contracts, plus keeping commitments towards and giving quality service to customers are its most important aims, resulting in continually high prestige in world markets.

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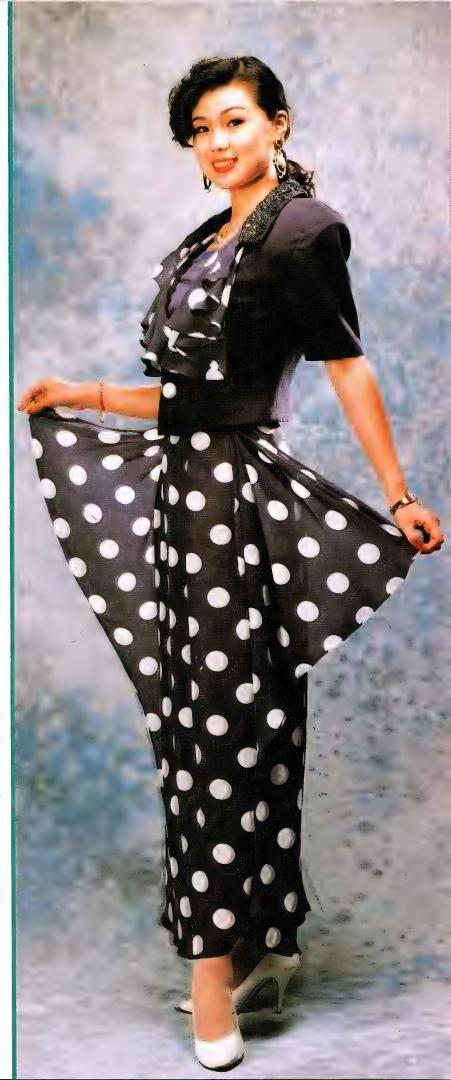
Cotton yarn, cotton fabric, T/C yarn, T/C fabric, rayon yarn, rayon fabric, blended yarn, blended fabric, cotton knitted wear, T/C knitted wear, bed sheets, tablecloths, towels, bath towels, towel blankets, tufted woollen blankets, wool fabric, etc.

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應啓鍾 電話:574940,李景元 電話:558841

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電報掛號:出口部 0537杭州(HANGZHOU) 進口部 3355杭州(HANGZHOU)

傳真:出口部 550336杭州(0571) 進口部 556492杭州(0571) 郵政編碼:310007 出□部經理室 電話:550291,551003

#### A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATION OF ZHEJIANG PROVINCE

The Foreign Trade Corporation of Zhejiang Province, a comprehensive foreign trade corporation, was set up in 1985 with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Our extensive import and export business includes: Foodstuffs, Native Produce, Arts & Crafts, Light Industry Products, Textiles & Garments, Metals & Minerals, Machinery & Electrical Products, Chemicals & Medicines, Non-ferrous metals & Metallurgy, Machinery Equipment, Instruments and Meters, Medical Apparatus and instruments etc.

With an efficient management body, the corporation puts emphasis on credit and practical work, combines trade with industry and technology and provides comprehensive and complete services. Our export business is so diversified that we have established over 20 export commodity bases, and while being the main import channel for the whole province, we have clients from all enterprises and work units in this area. We also undertake compensation trade, manufacturing according to supplied designs, assembling of supplied parts, the utilizing of foreign capital to introduce advanced technology, joint ventures, co-production and barter trade with the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries as well.

We have developed good business relations with clients in more than 30 countries and regions such as the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, Southeast Asia, Japan, Hong Kong, and Eastern European countries. We have representative offices in the USA, Germany, France, CIS and Hong Kong. Our total import and export value amounts to US\$150 million annually. We enjoy a high reputation among our customers.

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#### The Foreign Trade Corporation of Zhejiang Province

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Deputy General Managers: He Hui Zhen Tel: 550207,
Ying Qi Zhong Tel: 574940, Li Jing Yuan Tel: 558841
Telex: Export Department 35071 ZFTC CN,
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Sichuan Animal By-products I/E Corp., formerly named Sichuan Animal By-products Corp., is a provincial foreign trade enterprise under the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade. Having a history of over 70 years in the business of animal by-products, the corporation has established business relations with more than 100 countries and regions. It was graded a Level II national enterprise and has ranked among the top 500 Chinese foreign trade companies, reaching its highest import-export volume in 1991.

The corporation has set up branches and complete production facilities in Sichuan Province, providing animal by-products of excellent quality for export. These products are exported by means of integrated trade, joint-ventures and agencies.

To strengthen trade with foreign countries, the corporation has furthered its business structure with premises in Hong Kong, Japan, Germany, the U.S.A. and the United Arab Emirates.

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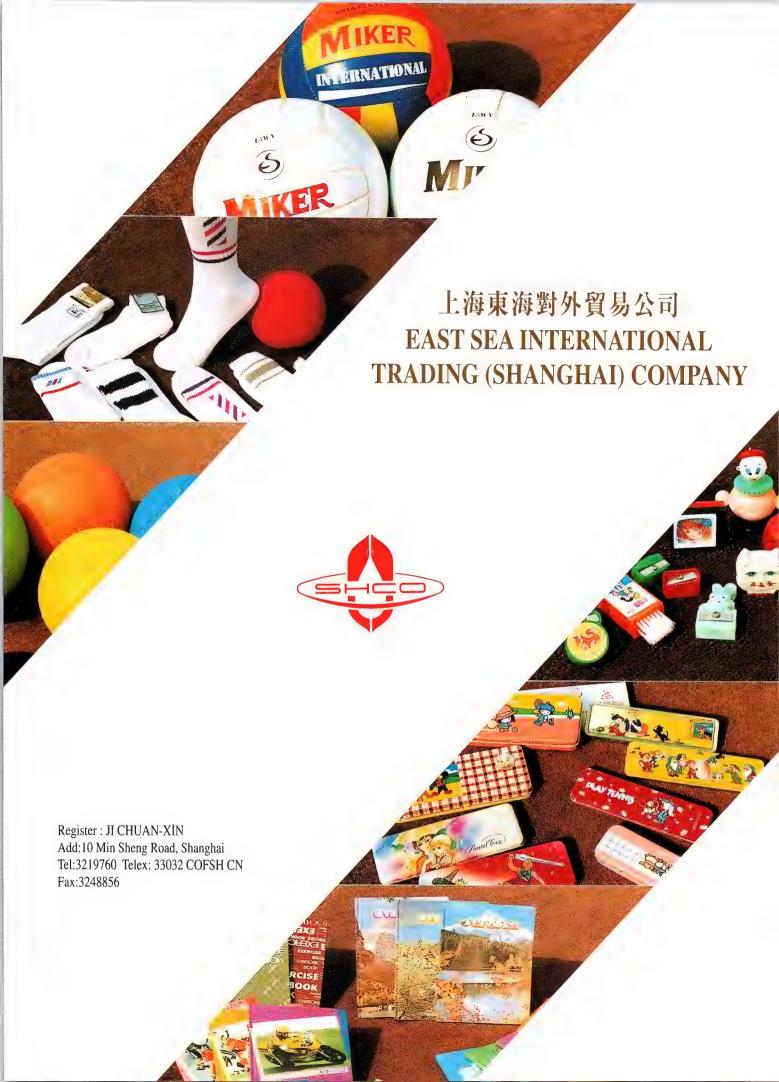
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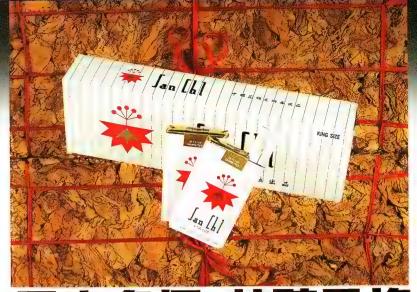
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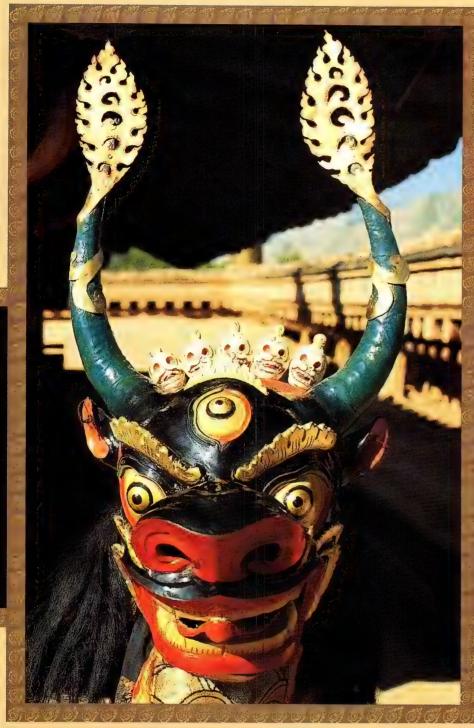
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This mask known as the horrifying Mahatejas Vajra is the incarnation of Manjusri, the Bodhisattva of Wisdom. Its appearance in Dharma god dance is said to be most frequent.

# The Sorcerer's Dance Mystic Beauty Blended with Religious Spirit

PHOTOS BY ZHENG YUNFENG TEXT BY XIANG DONG

he sorcerer's dance is an important Tibetan religious ceremony performed each year in the Lower Monastery of Wutun, Tongren County in the east of Qinghai Province. The Tibetans use this dance, accompanied by music, to drive away devils and ghosts. It is also used as an

occasion to tell the story of the Buddha and to get rid of evil lurking about in the lamasery. During the entire dance masks of various deities specially made for the occasion are worn by lamas. Appropriately enough, these masks are referred to by local Tibetans as sorcerer's dance masks. From the perspective of the Tibetan Buddhist faithful, the masks, however, are the personification of various Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism, on which account they are much revered. If one mentions the sorcerer's dance to Tibetans, the first thing that comes to their minds are the masks, not the dance. The eminent position of the mask in the sorcerer's dance is something that can hardly be disputed. Related to its importance, the mask has an attraction of its own stemming from its vivid portrayal of each deity. The craftsmen who make them use exaggeration of features and changing faces. They also portray in accordance with the features the character of each; the fierceness of, say, Yamaraja, the dark and gloomy features of the ruler of Hell, the horrifying look of ghosts and demons as well as the dignified appearance of the Buddha. These expressions are conveyed by the mask so successfully that the on-looker gets

form in the dance. They can also depict deities in the pantheon of the Bon r ligion which preceded Buddhism in Tibet. Generally, these soverign deities take two forms. One is the ang Amitayus in the Pure Land School or Esoteric Sect in Tibetan Buddhisi Amitayus is another name for Amitabha, the Buddha of Infinite Light. Ofte Amitayus is bedecked with a jewelled necklace and many strings ornaments. His face can be red, yellow or black. The second form often four is that of the Bodhisattva of Wisdom, Manjusri's reincarnation in Mahateja the guardian. Here, he is depicted in a particularly horrible form. The ma resembles a black ox, with three bulging eyes and flared nostrils. The mou is open so wide that it reaches both cheeks. Eyebrows in high relief reser bling flames make the image appear even more awe-inspiring. By far the most special of the masks, however, is the one which purpor to represent the guardian deity with a lion head, otherwise know as the Lic headed Mingwang. It has the shape of a lion, which symbolizes that the de conquers evil by means of wisdom. At least the Chinese name Mingwang h that connotation. There are others variations of this mask, such as Mingwa with a horse's head and Mingwang with the head of a deer. A very terrifying mask is the skull positioned at the top of the masks, which makes its appearance quite often in the sorcerer's dance. It has a wimouth, which is open beyond the cheek to the sides of the skull revealing t roots of its teeth. It represents the Dharma deity, known as the Shenc guardian worshipped by the Esoteric Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. It is said the The Karma Fish mask is very grotesque in shape. The head is that of a dragon, which is very long. The nose is coiled. It is one species of mythical animal. Mingwang here with the head of a lion uses wisdom to conquer evil. He is one of the deities assigned to protect the Buddhist canon. the feeling that he is looking at the Buddha or demon when he looks at the mask. The craftsman mostly uses prominent relief and bright colours, with black-white as foil to bring out the effectiveness of his colour tones, resulting in an atmosphere of mystery and abstruseness. The colour scheme has an impact to the sense of sight, imparting as it does a mix of romantic, profoundly spiritual and austere aesthetic feelings to the viewer, depending on what mask he is viewing. **Bringing the Spirits to Life** In the course of the entire sorcerer's dance ritual the mask conveys a sense of dramatic appreciation as well as a feeling of religious spiritual satisfaction. To the accompaniment of drums, the dancer uses light and heavy steps and quick and slow measurement to enable the viewer to see, as it were, the moods as well as the countenance of the gods. He lifts his hand and foot. At that very moment the spirit of the viewer is raised to a higher level in sublimity. He is made to feel as though he is communicating with the god. The deity becomes reified and can now not only be seen but even touched. The god is no longer a supernatural being. The distance between god and man is eliminated, as the two inhabit a common abode. Various Bodhisattvas and Deities

Represented by Masks

According to Tibetan Buddhism, the appearance of masks symbolizes various deities. The deities represented by the r asks are mainly deities who per-





# A Glimpse at Life on Tiny Lingkun Island

PHOTOS BY MA YIU CHUN ARTICLE BY LU JIANGUANG

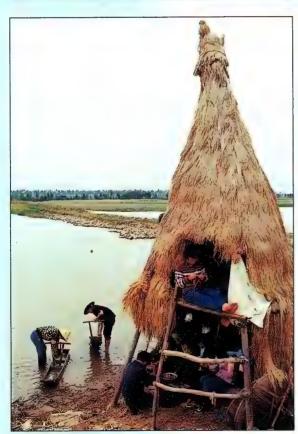


There is no need to wear shoes while walking on the soft seabeach (by Shao Jiaye).

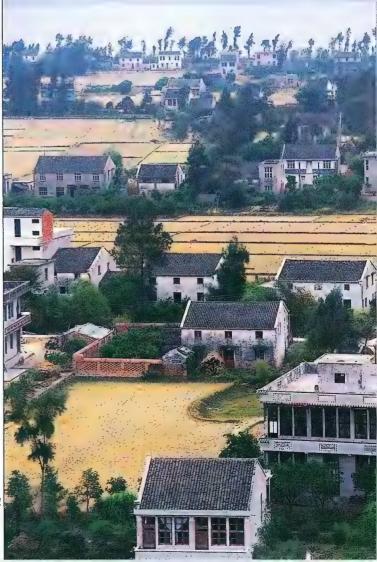


It was an overcast day in winter when I left the city of Wenzhou and took a mini-bus eastward along the Oujiang River towards Lingkun Island, located at the lower reaches of the Oujiang River in Zhejiang Province. Formed by sandy deposits brought down by the waters from the upper reaches of the river, Lingkun Island has a humid climate, cool in summer and warm in winter.

During the latter days of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), Japanese pirates often made trouble along the coastal areas in southeastern China, forcing many people to leave their home villages and wander



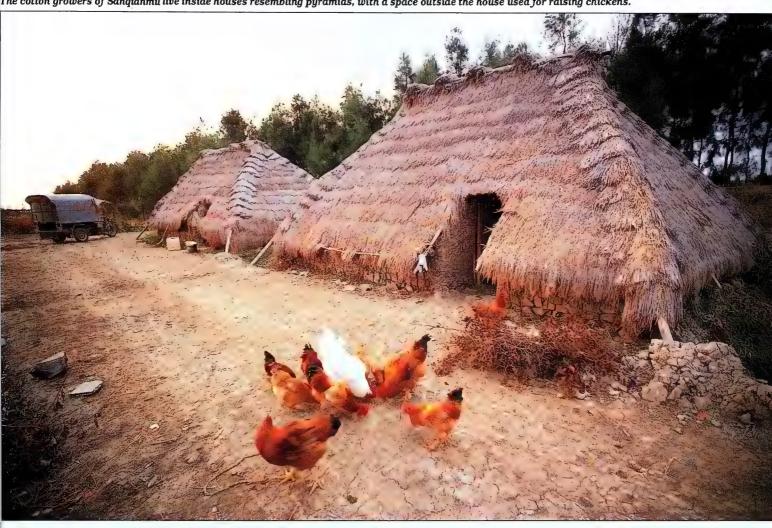
A small hut built of straw by the riverside is a temporary shelter for fishermen. They collect green crabs from morning till night, not an easy job (by Shao Jiaye).





Small houses dot the fields, creating a beautiful and tranquil scene.

The cotton growers of Sanqianmu live inside houses resembling pyramids, with a space outside the house used for raising chickens.





Everybody on the island knows how to use a nimo, which resembles a small sampan. One rides the nimo to collect the small green crabs that live on the seabeach.

aimlessly from place to place. Many eventually came to the small island of Lingkun, where they built thatched cottages and led a very simple existence. These people were the ancestors of the present-day inhabitants of Lingkun.

#### 17,000 Inhabitants with More Than 100 Surnames

There are currently more than 17,000 people living on Lingkun Island, however the total number of their surnames is as many as 104, a great number for such a small region in China. It is simply because the inhabitants have no uniform language and culture, each having their own local dialect, many surnames were wrongly pronounced

and became increasingly distorted, thus seemingly creating so many different surnames among the population. Coming from so many different places, each household maintains its own set of rites and rules when celebrating festivals, weddings or funerals.

Although its history and culture are fairly recent, Lingkun Island has long had very fertile soil, and rice, wheat, vegetables and fruit grow in abundance. In addition, the fishermen make the best use of the beaches and river banks to cultivate a great deal of shellfish and other seafood, including green crabs, prawns, clams and others. The island has an area of 3,866 hectares of seabeach and more than

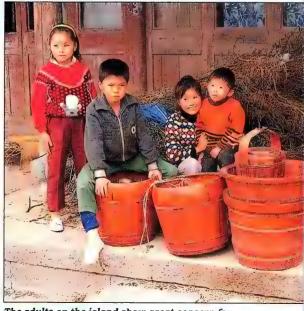


666 hectares of riverbeach as well, with both expanding gradually year by year.

## People's Lives Changed by Seabeach Cultivation

An old man named Xu was the first man to start seabeach cultivation on the island. Ten years ago, he and his four sons started raising prawns and clams, and he took a further seven hectares of seabeach to raise green crabs several years ago.

With much effort and over a period of time, he and his family brought stones and sacks of sand to the beach to build a number of



The adults on the island show great concern for the younger generation.



ponds. They then bought baby crabs and crab food and with loving care raised them to maturity. When it was time to collect the crabs, the whole family, old and young, set to work. The crabs were then taken to the town market — in this way, they made money which they then used to build several houses.

Having seen the achievements of the Xu family, many people on the island followed their example and took to seabeach cultivation. They worked industriously and enjoyed both a rich and happy life. Previously there were no two-storey buildings on the island, only bungalows, but nowadays, two-storey and even higher buildings are everywhere.

People on the island have no idea when they began using a means of transport known as a *nimo*, a wooden contraption smaller than a small sampan.

At sunrise, they put one foot on a *nimo* and push with the other foot until it is propelled forward. From the *nimo*, one can reach down into the water and catch the small green crabs that live in the seabeach. At sunset, they again get on their *nimo* and head off home. Once they arrive back, vendors are waiting to purchase the crabs they have collected. Some vendors take the crabs to the nearby town market to

sell, some bring the small green crabs home to raise and sell at a better price when they grow larger.

### Sanqianmu — An Idyllic Place

Sanqianmu (meaning "Three Thousand Mu" — one mu equals 1/15 hectare) is a small town located at one end of Lingkun Island, bordered by cotton fields on its left side. The houses in which the cotton growers live resemble small pyramids against the green leaves when seen from a distance, a unique and charming sight.



This exquisitely crafted wooden bed is very spacious, looking like the bed of an emperor.



sunset it is time to return home, shouldering the day's catch, to enjoy family life (by Shao Jiaye).



This washtub in the shape of a goose is practical and attractive.



Ponds filled with fish, prawns, green crabs and so on are on the town's right-hand side. The muddy-yellow seabeach and the deep blue sky are set against each other in strong contrast. Luxuriant high grass grows at the front, with a path in the middle leading to the seabeach in the distance.

Seeing such a place makes me dream about building a thatched cottage myself, going out fishing in the morning and coming back in the evening with my catch of clams.

Walking along the streets of the town, one finds it lined with either clothing stores or barber shops, showing that people on Lingkun Island pay special attention to their dress and personal appearance.

The managers of the barber shops are mostly girls of about 20 years of age who have been to big cities like Wenzhou, Shanghai or Guangzhou to study hair styling. Once they return, they run barber shops in the country, taking delight in being female shopkeepers.

#### A Possible Tourist Resort?

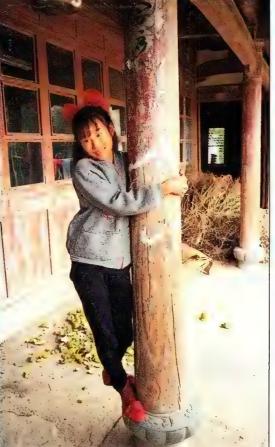
In recent years, the conditions for developing Lingkun Island into a tourist holiday village have improved. The island is surrounded by vast stretches of seabeach and riverbeach, and is completely free of industrial pollution, making it an attractive tourist destination.

On the 18-kilometre-long shoreline of the island, an embankment has been planted with Chinese ephedra and masson pine to form a shelterbelt, thus transforming the desolate island into an oasis in the river.

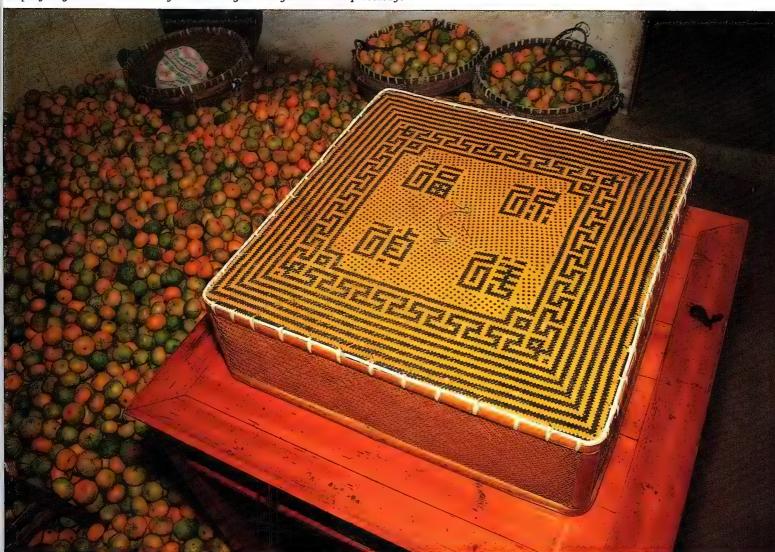
If you come as a tourist, you might be able to stay in a small furnished room done in the local style. On your arrival, in addition to being warmly greeted by the host, you will be given a fishing rod and a bamboo basket so that you may go to the riverside to fish the next day, or go to the orchard to pick shaddocks and mandarin oranges. If you want a relaxing and inter-

This generation of young people have grown up on land cultivated by their parents, who toiled for years to provide their children with ample clothing and food.











▲ While parents work industriously on the seabeach or farm, their children play in fields of wild taro (by Zheng Gaohua).

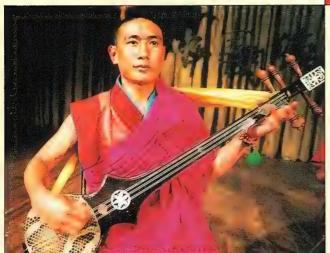
■ While the man of the house is outside farming and raising fish, his wife at home has to do heavy domestic chores (by Zheng Gaohua). esting holiday, this could very well be perfect!

Old Mr. Huang, who has lived on the island for not quite ten years, moved here from a faraway district of China. When he first set foot on the island, he was penniless. Thanks to help from others, however, he was able to build a thatched cottage. Nowadays, his family have moved into a newlybuilt two-storey three-room building, where they lead a pleasant life. However, his previous thatched cottage still stands in the green shade, witness to the ever-increasing changes on the island.

Translated by Chen Hansheng

# Chinese Buddhist and Taoist Music

PHOTOS BY MA PEIWEN ARTICLE BY ZHANG MINLI

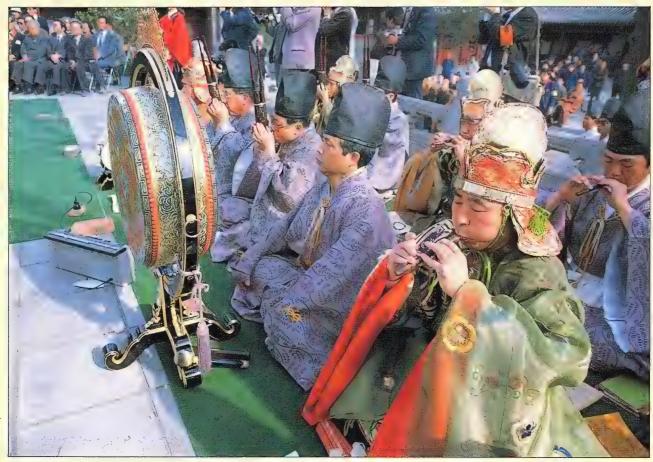


"Lama Zhange". a tune played by a soloist of the Lama Orchestra



The Baiyun Temple Orchestra playing percussion music

n ancient China, music was played only in the royal court and the homes of aristocrats. The common people hardly ever handled large musical instruments and no orchestral or chamber music, concerts were arranged or performed for popular audiences. After the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Buddhism as well as Taoism both thrived in China, and religious music was composed in various communities across China. Temple orchestras in both religions were organized. Music was played as part of religious services and, as a system gradually evolved in the temples. Buddhist and Taoist music became major schools of traditional Chinese music over the course of hundreds of years, an important development in the history of Chinese music.



A visiting Japanese Buddhist group from Nara joins the orchestra of the Guangji Temple during a performance of Taoist music in Beijing.

### **Buddhist Music**

Buddhism spread to China before the Eastern Jin Dynasty (317-420) and ever since it gradually mingled with Chinese culture and became a Chinese religion in actual practice. Buddhist music in China underwent a parallel experience and developed in four general stages.

The first stage was marked by music with the stamp of the Western Regions, hrough which Buddhism was spread to China. Buddhist music absorbed aspects of Chinese culture. Various schools of music same to the fore. Notwithstanding its great variety, Buddist music at this time largely had the characteristics of music played in he areas referred to as the Western Regions.

The second stage began from the Eastern Jin Dynasty and lasted to the Qi and



aode'er music played by the Lama Orchestra at the abrang Lamasery



hihua music played by priest-musicians of the eijing Buddhist Orchestra at a convention marking e founding of the orchestra

iang Dynasties (479-557). Buddhist music arther mingled with Chinese culture while oncurrently musical styles became more aried.

In the Tang Dynasty, Buddhist music ourished and developed a definitive form uring this third stage. Buddhism as a region became very popular in China during its stage. The basic conventions of the rusic were finalized. Buddhist music develped into an important genre of music in hina at this time.

The final stage from the Song to Yuan ynasties (960-1368) to the present day itnesses the popularization of Buddhist usic in the country. Buddhist music be-

comes incorporated into the daily life of the people, gaining increasing popularity within the general population.

#### Temple and Popular Buddhist Music

In content and form, Buddhist music falls into two categories: temple music or music played during religious ceremonies in temples and music played by the people as a rough equivalent of folk music. The former, handed down from generation to generation and hardly ever changed, enjoys a sort of sacred position in the life of the Buddhist faithful. As for Buddhist music in the form of folk music, it has itself mingled with music indigenous to various localities, and become rich in local flavour: thus the technique and content vary from place to place. "Advising People to Perform Good Deeds", for instance, is a popular Buddhist folk song performed in the rural areas of northern Shaanxi Province while "Song of the Buddha", on the other hand, is popular in villages of southern China.

Buddhist sutras and historical records tell us that there are scores of Buddhist musical instruments. However, percussion music instruments used in ordinary religious ceremony in temples across China consist principally of the bell, drum and the wooden fish made of a hollow wooden block accompanied by a rattling bell. These percussion instruments combine to produce solemn music. The more secular types of popular Buddhist music are mostly produced by wind instruments, such as the pipe, flute and the *sheng* (a reed pipe), different from those instruments played in the temples as part of religious rituals.

Before the 1950's and 1960's, Chinese Buddhist music stagnated for a considerable period of time. It began to flourish again only very recently. The big temples now have their own orchestras and as a result major Buddhist music centres have come into existence in China.

## Buddhist Music of the Zhihua Temple

An ancient shrine first built in the Ming Dynasty, the Zhihua Temple is situated in the eastern part of Beijing. It was Wang Zhen, a eunuch, who introduced music from the imperial court to this temple in 1433. The court music was mastered by the priests and gradually blended with tra-ditional temple music. Yet Zhihua's music had its own unique style and became famous. Because the temple was in Beijing, the music was also known as the capital music. What is really unique about it is that it has kept the tradition of the music from the Tang and Song and earlier dynasties in musical score, musical instruments, tunes and melodies, as well as performance techniques.

The tradition has been maintained pedagogically to teach this music only orally, to learn by heart and, philosophically, to instil and convey the concepts of quietude, immateriality, indifference and remoteness from the cares of the world. Music of the Zhihua Temple to this day has occupied an important position in Chinese Buddhist music.

The Northern School from Buddhist Temples in Beijing

Buddhist music in Beijing has long been regarded as the northern school of Buddhist music, with its singing and recitation styles different from those of what is known as the southern school. The northern school originating in very ancient times is characterized by a bold style. Yet the music of this school is in danger of being lost due to the advanced age of monks who are musicians or singers of this type of music. Fortunately the Buddhist Meditation Society has managed to preserve this music and as a result, it is played both inside and outside the temple.

#### Lama Music of Labrang Lamasery in Gansu

Situated in a remote mountainous area in Gansu, the Labrang Lamasery, one of the six major lamaseries of the Yellow Sect, is a Tibetan lamaist shrine and its music is typical of that associated with Tibetan lamaseries.

Tibetan Buddhist music differs from Buddhist music in the Central Plains of China in both performance techniques as well as content. There are four basic genres of Tibetan Buddhist music: Daode'er music, Tibetan opera, singing and Buddhist ceremonial music. Daode'er music is music performed as part of major religious ceremonies, such as the ceremony to welcome the Living Buddha. Music from Tibetan opera encompasses singing, dancing, and dialogue or monologue to enact historical or mythological events. Songs are sung virtually anywhere in praise of those who have dedicated their lives to Buddhism. Buddhist ceremonial music is played during religious rituals when there is a large congregation of monks and followers.

### **Taoist Music**

Music is naturally played during Taoist religious ceremonies. This music includes solo and choral singing as well as singing accompanied by clapping, in addition to wind and percussion rhythms and drumbeating, and orchestral music. Purely instrumental music is only used at the beginning and end of religious worship, during the opening bars in singing and to accompany dance. The earliest Taoist music mainly consisted of percussion. Pipes and string instruments were added beginning from the Tang Dynasty. Taoist music was nevertheless still dominated by the vocals. According to historical records, Taoist vocal music was categorized as yin (recitation) or yong (chanting). Such music was performed during ritual services as early as the time of the Former Shu (907-925) during the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms Period, more than 1,000 years ago.

#### Music in Taoist Religious Services

Taoist vocal music can be categorized into odes, hymns, chanting Taoist scriptures and other songs. The religious songs or hymns assume independent forms, the shorter ones having four stanzas each while the longer ones have more than ten stanzas, which are complicated in style, and serve different purposes. Taoist religious services invoke immortals to help relieve human suffering from flood, drought, insect pests and other forms of pestilence, thunder, sickness and disease, birth and death or prolongation of life. Different hymns or songs are sung or chanted according to the demands of the particular occasion.



Priests of the Taoist Orchestra from the Wuda<mark>ng</mark> Mountains during their performance of religious music



The Xuanmiao Taoist Orchestra during a performance in Suzhou

#### Fusion of Taoist Music with Folk Genres of Music

Chanting accompanied by music are performed only by Taoist priests. The faithful do not take part in such chanting. On the whole, Taoist music as practised today is rich in content since it has absorbed much from Chinese folk music during the course of more than 1,000 years. There are Taoist hymns in praise of celestial inhabitants and music composed by priests, depicting the arrival of celestial beings to various places. There are solemn tunes that are sung to drive away evil spirits. There are also songs that depict the happy arrival of celestials in heaven.

In comparison with Buddhist music, Taoist music is characterized by possessing strong features of the indigenous Chinese music in specific localities. In observing Taoist religious ceremonies therefore the Taoist music rendered may differ from place to place. Rhythms and melodies from certain popular local operas may be detected in Taoist music. Thus, Taoist musicians or singers in various localities often possess a unique style peculiar to that area.

Taoist music groups and organizations exist in many parts of China and represent different schools of Taoist music. Some of the better-known schools are listed below.

#### Music of Baiyun Taoist Temple in Beijing

Adhering to the beliefs of the Quanzhen (Doctrine of Complete Perfection) Sect of Taoism, this temple is the most important Taoist shrine in the nation's capital. The melodies sung by priests at the temple are considered to be among the most orthodox elements of this sect. "The Melodies of Ten Directions" is a tune handed down from very ancient times. Many Taoist temples in Shaanxi, Henan, Zhejiang and Shandong also play this tune. The musical instruments used to perform this tune are mainly percussion with strings as accompaniment.

#### Music of Xuanmiao Taoist Temple in Suzhou

This temple is under the denomination of the Zhengyi (Religion of the Correct One) Sect. The Taoist priests in this sect are masters of instrumental music. They have incorporated into their Taoist music the melodies of musical genres from areas south of the Yangtse River, such as Kunqu opera, Jiangnan string music, and miscellaneous folk songs and ditties. What the

priests have done is to combine religious music with the prevailing popular traditional music in specific localities, producing essentially a fusion of religious and secular music.

## Taoist Temple Orchestra from Wudang Mountains in Hubei

The Taoist Temple Orchestra in the Wudang Mountains – a sacred spot of this religion in China – plays sacred music handed down from ancient dynasties. A prominent feature of this particular music, however, is that Chinese folk genres of music have been incorporated into Taoist music played here. "The Melodies of Ten Directions" is the tune most often played in Wudang. Here Taoist chanting and singing are accompanied by drums, small gongs cymbals, sheng and bamboo flutes. The musical renditions nonetheless continue the heritage of early Taoist temple music.

#### Taoist Music from Hengshan Mountain in Shanxi

The Hengshan Taoist Orchestra was organized by nine Taoist priests from Hengshan Mountain, one of the five holy mountains in China, located near Yanbei ir Shanxi Province. The big pipes and double pipes are rarely used elsewhere, but are among the instruments used here. With ar average age over sixty, the priests perform traditional music handed down from generation to generation. In style and per formance as well as instruments used Hengshan music owes its origin to military trumpeters, once members of mounted military bands during the Han (206 B.C. A.D. 220) and Wei (220-265) Dynasties as well as to the Taoist tunes originating during the Tang and Song (960-1279 Dynasties.

Translated by He Fei



Taoist music played by the Hengshan Taoist Orchestra

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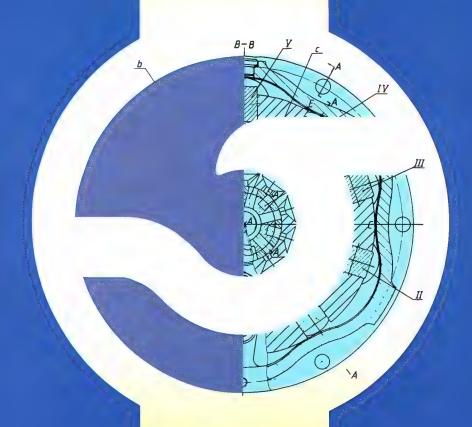




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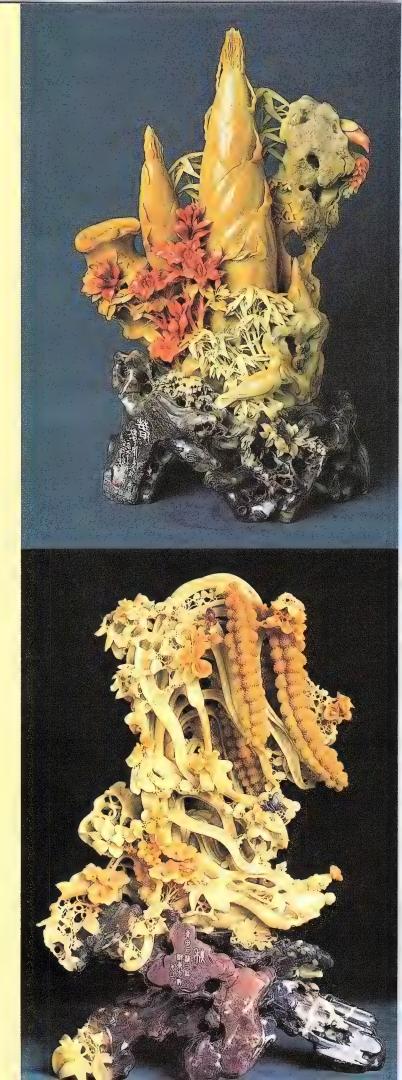
ingtian stone carving can be dated back to the Song Dynasty nearly 1,000 years ago. The stone which is ideal for carving comes from Fangshan, Qingtian County, Zhejiang Province, hence the name Qingtian stone. This stone is not only smooth in texture and moderate in hardness, but also rich in colour. Of the one hundred and more varieties of the stone, the most outstanding ones are Denghuodong, Lanhua Qingtian and Fengmenqing.

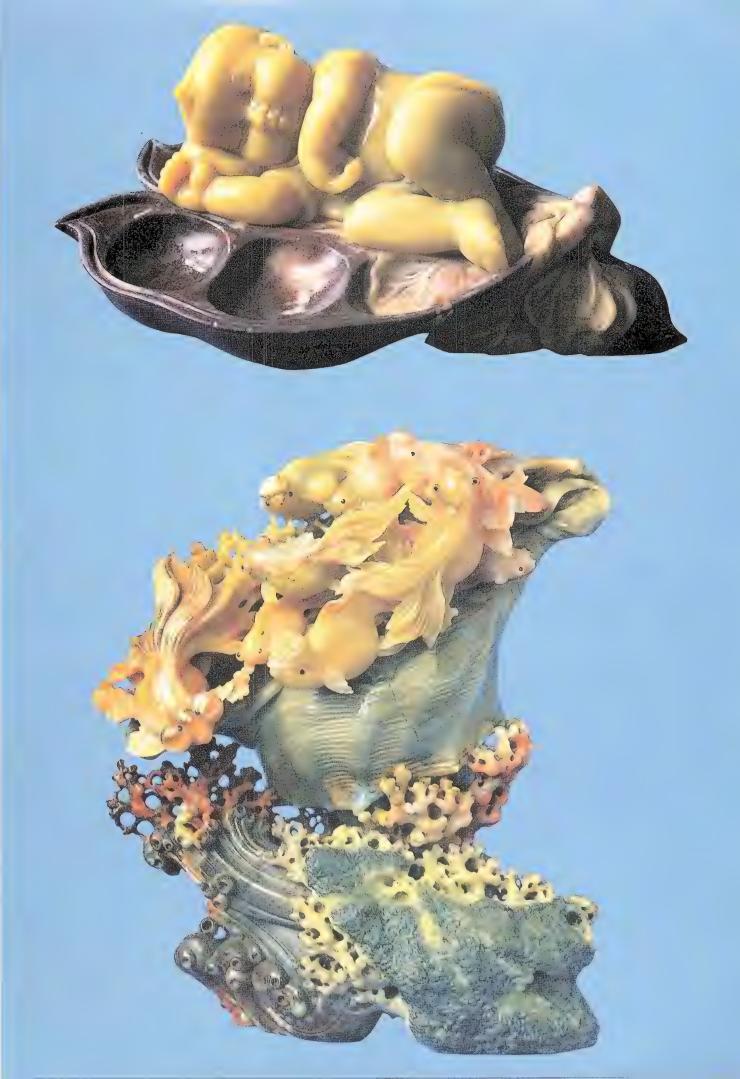
Using drills and other tools, deft stone engravers produce art works by engraving, hollowing out and using other carving techniques according to different textures of the stone. After being meticulously carved on pieces of ordinary-looking stone, a baby sleeping sweetly in a bean pod, a group of goldfish swimming around the stone and other delightful scenes appear before our eyes. In order to produce a masterpiece, they often spend several months or even a year learning from each other and pondering over the design.

The stone engraving entitled *Spring* rendered on a beautiful specimen with interlaced yellow, white, red and grey portrays on the stone a lively spring scene. A big bamboo shoot points towards the sky with smaller ones breaking through the soil by its side. On the red part of the stone is a cluster of azaleas in full bloom, serving as a foil to the bamboo shoots. The bamboo trees with old trailing plants around them and the cuckoos are vivid and natural in composition. The whole work reveals an enchanting atmosphere of spring.

On the piece entitled *Autumn*, one finds drooping ears of golden corn shimmering in the autumn light. The luxuriant growth of hyacinth bean and towel gourds, the small frog in the action of hopping on a leaf and the flying black butterfly create a colourful idyllic autumn scene.

Translated by K.V. Ku







# A Walk Through Antiquity

### PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN TEXT BY ALLAN HUNNICUTT



fter leaving friends in Nanchang in Jiangxi Province, my wife Karen and I headed towards once-impoverished and still relatively backward Anhui Province to see a 500-year-old street in the town of Tunxi.

Anhui lies between Jiangsu and Henan provinces, and is one of the least changed areas in China. Everything from the sturdiness of the architecture to the local dialect (which is said to be more like medieval Chinese than standard Mandarin) smacks of antiquity.

After finding a room in a hotel that was anything but warm and clean (both of which are often hard to find in Anhui in winter), we set out to find the old street (called Lao Jie in Chinese).

After about ten minutes, the corner of an ancient roof appeared and we knew we were getting warm. After rounding a corner we found a world unto itself, where *kungfu* heroes, silk-clad Mandarins, shopkeepers and sorcerers once mingled.

At the entrances to the street and at important intersections stood the kind of archways that used to be visible all over China. These were made of wood and were much flimsier than those at imperial tombs.

As we walked down the street we could not help but notice the fine craftsmanship of the carved eaves, door panels and windows of the wooden buildings, most of which date from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In most cases, the facades were painted with brightly-coloured designs, in stark contrast to most of the architecture seen in China's modern cities, and indeed the rest of Tunxi.

This old street in Tunxi is probably as close as one can get to seeing the former glory of one of southern China's greatest cities of antiquity, Hangzhou. Although this city still survives, its days of splendour came to an abrupt end when it was burned first by invading Taiping rebels and later by Manchus when they took back the town

The houses lining the streets were said to be two to five storeys — thus the style here would have been similar to that of Hang-zhou.

Many of the features and traditions of ancient China were visible on this old street. Toddlers were buttressed against the cold in padded jackets, hung up to their armpits in what looked like inverted wooden buckets warmed by coals placed at the base. As there was no central heating in any of the houses, these young children had the warmest feet in town. In the late afternoon when the cold started to take its effect on me, I began to envy them.

In ancient times, the Chinese dried fruits and vegetables for winter. In Tunxi the bractice continues and in November and early December one can see Chinese cabbages hanging on racks near the river that runs through the town.

Most of the houses we saw were twostorey structures with storefronts on the ground floor and living quarters on the second. One exception was a restaurant which also had a dining room upstairs.

Restaurants were a major feature of the street, as were stationers, herbalists and rendors of fabrics. In the mornings we enjoyed hot steamed buns made with stone-ground flour (much richer in nutrients han the processed flour found on supernarket shelves in Hong Kong) and stuffed with pork. This was usually accompanied with soya milk or congee.

For lunch, noodles made from the same stone-ground flour were popular. They were usually a bit saltier than what you get in long Kong, but not overly salty. I had not



Most of the buildings in Lao Jie date from the Ming Dynasty, still retaining their original style.



Anhui people store things on the ground floor and live on the upper floor.

tasted such noodles since my former Chinese teacher (an elderly woman from Shandong Province) made them for me 30 years ago — not even in so-called Beijing style restaurants.

Tunxi is also known as a centre for what are referred to in China as the "Four Treasures of the Scholar's Studio", in other words: a writing brush, an inkslab, an inkstick and paper. Many stores selling such wares could be seen. Some of the most finely decorated stores were dedicated to scholars' paraphernalia. And what marvelous paraphernalia it was: delicate bamboo and jade brushes, intricately and gracefully carved inkslabs, inksticks and soft white paper adorned the shelves.

As I took photos of the architecture and people, a curious crowd of townspeople gathered round to get a look at this foreigner with his modern technology capturing their old way of life. With the camera mounted on a tripod, I had my photo taken with everyone.

Nearby was a six-foot-high wall which surrounded a fine mansion, undoubtedly the abode of one of the town's former illustrious personages. Still kept in good condition, it seems to have survived the fate suffered by most such stately homes.

For dinner my wife and I ate at one of the larger restaurants on the old street. We dined upstairs on cubes of pork in a rich dark sauce, fresh vegetables, a plate of glazed lotus seeds and Chinese prunes.

After dinner most of the shops close, as the shopkeepers enjoy the evening with their families and try to stay as warm as they can. Karen and I returned to our hotel to prepare for the next leg of our journey. Eventually we would visit another ancient town, Quanzhou in Fujian Province, but surely not even Quanzhou could rival the atmosphere of Tunxi, with its lively street life.



n Tunxi, Anhui, playing billiards is a pastime for both adults and children.



Shanghai Improves Facilities for Foreigners

Shanghai has greatly improved its facilities for foreign business people living in the city in recent years. In 1992 approximately 10,000 overseas business people came to Shanghai, which is home to 3,000 foreign-funded enterprises and 1,000 foreign business agencies. To make living in Shanghai more convenient for foreigners, most of their daily necessities are now imported from abroad, such as vegetables and fruits not usually found in China. Foreigners can now buy or rent their own apartments rather than live in hotels, which still provide much of the recreational facilities frequented by overseas business people. There is also a school set up for the children of foreigners, as well as a medical centre.

#### Guangzhou to Hold Tourism Fair

From May 28-31 Guangzhou's China Export and Import Building will be the site of an international tourism fair, aimed at promoting tourism in China and abroad. The fair will be a unique opportunity for both Chinese and foreign tour companies to work together and exchange information. The service aspect of tourism will be its main focus, and data on hotels, tourist commodities and entertainment facilities will be available.

#### **Tianjin Seeks Investment for 13 Projects**

The northern coastal city of Tianjin has announced plans to encourage foreign investment for 13 key projects, all joint ventures, as follows: X-ray film for medical and industrial use, glass containers and printed packaging and decorative products, electrolyte copper, amino transfusion liquid, milk, industrial boilers, digital/analog electro-mechanical hydraulic speed governors, refrigerators, washing machines and hydropower-generating units, plus the construction of a dock for liquid tanks and an industrial park.

The city has set a target for foreign investment this year at US\$1-1.2 billion, and has plans to greatly improve its investment climate. The service industry will also be expanded to include more companies eligible for foreign investment, and facilities for foreign business people living in Tianjin will be broadened to include schools and hospitals especially for children of foreigners.

Hunan to Open New Economic Zone

Hunan Province will soon have its own economic development zone, located in the capital city of Changsha. The Xingsha Development Zone will cover 20 square kilometres of land in the east of the city, and will be targeting tourism, food processing, electronics and high tech as the priority areas for overseas financial co-operation. Local officials hope that the new zone will also attract domestic township enterprises, with plans to set up a township city and a private business city in the zone within five years of construction.

The local government has allocated a US\$65 million budget for infrastructure improvements, and some contracts for the zone have already been signed with Hong Kong investors worth US\$18 million. Special tax policies will be a major incentive for investors, such as tax exemption for township enterprises in the first five years of business. Manufacturing enterprises wholly owned by overseas investors which plan to operate for more than 15 years will be exempt from all local taxes for ten years, and those in nonmanufacturing sectors will be exempt for five years. Other tax breaks are also planned, and foreign banks will be able to set up offices and make direct investment in the zone.

### Foreign-Funded Enterprises in Dalian Given a Boost

Dalian, a city on the coast of Liaoning Province in China's northeast, is allowing foreign-funded enterprises to widen the scope of their business and sell their products on the domestic market. Local companies with overseas investment can now engage in finance, insurance and commodity retail businesses, real estate, tourism, entertainment and communications. Foreign-funded enterprises can also rent stores and counters in shops, and can set up shareholding companies in the city. Procedures for registration and application of new businesses have been simplified, and a special law has been introduced to deal with complaints by foreign business people. So far over 1,400 overseas-funded firms have been set up in Dalian.

#### 1993 Export Fair to Be Held in Xiamen

China's second export fair for foreignfunded enterprises is to be held on October 18 in Xiamen, Fujian Province, also the site of last year's export fair. Four thousand foreign business people will be invited to the fair, and 800 exhibition booths will be provided for those interested in exhibiting their wares.

#### Harbin Border Trade Fair

Preparations are underway for the Fourth China Harbin Border and Local Economic and Trade Fair, to be held in Harbin, the capital of Heilongjiang Province in Northeast China. Scheduled for June 15-21, the trade fair this year will emphasize high-tech and value-added products plus the expansion of spot exchange transactions and technical co-operation. The provincial authorities have invested over US\$300,000 to upgrade facilities for the fair, and more than 5,000 business people from abroad have been invited.

**Tianjin to Host Ten Trade Exhibitions** 

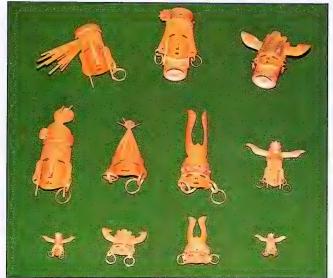
From July to November of 1993, Tianjin will be the location of ten major trade fairs and exhibitions. The events to be held are: July 7-10, the '93 Tianjin Leather and Shoes international trade fair; July 14-18, China Estate '93, the country's first real estate trade fair; Aug. 26-30, H & O China '93, an exhibition of home and office supplies; Sept. 1-5, Intermed China' 93, an international trade fair on medical and pharmaceutical equipment; Oct. 5-9, Telecom China '93, a trade fair on post and optical fibre telecommunications; Oct. 15-20, Tianjintex '93, a textile and garment industry trade fair; Oct. 26-30 Detechnique China '93, an exhibition on the techniques of machine monitoring, fault diagnosis and maintenance: Oct. 28-Nov. 1, Petro & Chem China '93, an international exhibition on the petroleum and chemical industry; Nov. 1-5, '93 AMHE, the third Asian machinery and hardware exhibition, and Nov. 16-20, Surface China '93, an international exhibition on surface treatment, heat and welding. For further information, contact the Tianjin World Economy Trade & Exhibition Centre. Tel: 0086-22-358570, ext. 4344; Fax: 0086-22-349854.

International Products Fair in Beijing

From June 23-28, Beijing's China World Trade Center will hold the Beijing International Fair on Fine Daily Novelties. Sponsored by the China National Arts and Crafts Import and Export Corporation, the China World Trade Center and the newspaper International Business, the fair will exhibit all kinds of items for daily household use, as well as specialty and novelty products. Some of the products on display will include embroidery, cloisonné, paintings, calligraphy, lamps, toys, furniture, jewellery, carpets, suitcases, handbags and porcelain. For further business details, call Beijing 5053853.

# Nuo Masks in Guizhou Province

PHOTOS BY LIU XIULUAN





A performance of Dixi opera

In recent years, bamboo tourist masks have been bought as souvenirs by tourists travelling in Guizhou.

uizhou Province is located in the northeastern part of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau in southwest China. It covers an area of 170,000 square kilometres and has a population of 31.44 million people, consisting of the Han majority plus many ethnic minorities such as the Miao, Bouyei, Dong, Yi, Shui, Hui, Gelao, Zhuang and Yao people. Its climate is subtropical, humid and rainy throughout the year, with no severely cold winters or scorchingly hot summers.

#### A Wide Variety of Masks

Nuo, also known as Da Nuo, originates from a ceremony to dispel ghosts and prevent natural disasters in ancient times. With the addition of sacrificial rites and dances in subsequent dynasties, it has evolved into today's Nuo drama, mysterious and awesome. Nuo drama is a form of folk art with a strong religious influence. The performers all wear masks, which look primitive and crude, often with exaggerated features. They include images of human beings, gods, devils and animals in both their positive and negative aspects. There are several kinds of masks: some are colourfully-painted wooden sculptures, others are made of paper or bamboo. The workmanship is superb and Guizhou Province boasts many top-notch folk sculptors. Among the very best are the inhabitants of Liubao Village in the city of Anshun. There are different methods of making these masks, each with its own artistic style. Some are three-dimensional, some are flat, some are

crudely carved and some are refined and complex. Examples of many of these masks can be purchased easily for the price of about 100 yuan at the China Folk Culture Villages in Shenzhen.

#### The Dixi, or "Ground" Opera of Anshun

Among *Nuo* dramas, one of the most popular is *Dixi* or "Ground" opera found in the city of Anshun. It is a primitive form of *Nuo* drama, introduced to Guizhou more than 600 years ago in the Ming Dynasty.

Dixi opera is also popular in the nearby counties of Huishui and Pingba, and in the Zhenning Bouyei and Miao Autonomous County. It is performed not on a stage, but on



Traditional black Nuo masks and those used by the performers in the Dixi operas are exhibited on the lower and upper shelves, respectively.

the flat ground, hence its name. People stand or sit along the surrounding mountain slopes to watch the performance.

The local people call the masks used in *Dixi* opera "facès", which represent the soul of the image portrayed by the mask, as well as being a ubiquitous symbol of *Dixi* opera. Made of wood, they are colourfully-painted and finely-sculpted works of art.

A high level of skill is required for the making of masks. From their features and facial expressions, they can be divided into such basic categories as officials and officers, old and young, men and women. They must undergo various stages before they are ready for use, including sculpting, painting, filling in, lacquering with tung oil and finally drawing in the eyes. These masks can also be bought for approximately 100 yuan.

#### Bamboo Tourist Masks Now in Vogue

The tourist industry in Guizhou Province has prospered in recent years due to China's open-door policy. One newly-developed arts and crafts product made especially for tourists is the unpainted bamboo mask. These masks are made entirely of varnished pieces of bamboo, and look friendlier, less fierce than the authentic masks, whose unfamiliar and often frightening countenances put some buyers off. These masks depict the faces of different ethnic people, and come in various sizes, ranging from 70 centimetres to three centimetres in length. Prices vary, ranging up to 150 yuan. Translated by Anne Yan

### Guizhou Province's Tourist Products Corporation

賽州省旅遊商品生產供應公司 45 Yan'an Road East, Guiyang, Guizhou Tel: 522 465



### **Major Hotels in** Guizhou, Shanxi, Gansu and Xinjiang

#### Guiyang, Guizhou

#### Bajiaoyan Hotel

八角岩飯店

64 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001 Tel: 663323

#### Guiyang Plaza Hotel 金筑大酒店



2 Yan'an Road East, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001 Tel: 627048, 627047 Telex: 660001 PLAZA CN Fax: 622994 GM: Paul Cheung & Wu Tie

Opened 28 December 1989

175 rooms and suites Rates: US\$48-88 Located 35 km from airport, 3 km from railway station

Taxi fare to/from airport, US\$40 Facilities: Business centre, bar, Chinese and Western

restaurants, billiard room, outdoor swimming pool, disco, sauna, gym

#### **Guizhou Hotel**

貴州飯店

66 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001 Tel: 623888, 624888 Telex: 66075 GZPH CN Fax: 624397

### Huaxi Hotel

Huaxi District, Guiyang, Guizhou 550025 Tel: 551199 Telex: 66017 HXHTL CN

#### 金橋飯店

34 Ruijin Road Central, Guiyang, Guizhou 550003 Tel: 24872

#### Oiaovi Hotel

1 Nanchang Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550002 Tel: 23966 Telex: 66059 GZQYH CN

#### Yunyan Hotel

68 Beijing Road, Guiyang, Guizhou 550001 Tel: 625234

#### Anshun, Guizhou

#### Hongshan Hotel 虹山賓館



42 Honghu Road East, Anshun, Guizhou 561000 Tel: 22088, 23435, 23101, 23162 GM: Lu Ren Xian

Opened 1958

82 rooms Rates: US\$19

Located 100 km from airport, 2.5 km from railway station Facilities: Bar, shopping arcade, nightclub, beauty salon

#### National Hotel

民族飯店

Tashan Road East, Anshun, Guizhou Tel: 22621, 22500 GM: Hua Fengxing Opened April 1986 150 rooms Rates: Standard US\$30, suite US\$60 Located 95 km from airport, 1 km from railway station Taxi fare to/from airport, Rmb¥361 Facilities: Shopping centre, karaoke, dance hall

#### Datong, Shanxi

#### **Datong Hotel**

8 Yingbin Road, Datong, Shanxi 037008 Tel: 235174

#### Datong Jichechang Hotel

8 Daqing Road, Datong, Shanxi 037008 Tel: 323706

#### Yungang Hotel

雲岡賓館

21 Yingbin Road East, Datong, Shanxi 037008 Tel: (0352) 521601, 524568 Fax: (0352) 524927 GM: Hou Yousheng Opened 1 July 1985 154 rooms and suites Rates: US\$25 Located 35 km from airport, 5 km from railway station Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants (Shandong and Sichuan dishes), banquet halls, function rooms, bar, business centre, coffee shop, billiard room, massage

#### Taiyuan, Shanxi

#### Bingzhou Hotel

并州飯店

32 Yingze Dajie, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001 Rates: Standard FEC¥171, suite FEC¥225

#### linci Guesthouse

Jinci Town, Southern Suburbs, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001 Rates: Standard FEC¥150, suite FEC¥200

#### Sanjin Mansion

三晉大廈

Taiyuan, Shanxi 030000 Tel: 442551

#### Sangiao Mansion

三橋大廈

4 Hanxiguan, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030002 Tel: 345885 Rates: Standard FEC¥100, suite FEC¥150

#### Shanxi Grand Hotel

山西大酒店

5 Xinjian Road South, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001 Tel: 443901 Telex: 282037 SGHTL CN Fax: (0351) 443525 166 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC¥216, suite

Located 13 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station

#### Shanxi Sports Guesthouse 山西體育賓館

9 Tiyu Road, Dayingpan, Taiyuan, Datong 030000 Tel: 772357

#### Yingze Guesthouse

迎溪客館

51 Yingze Dajie, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030025

Rates: Standard FEC¥175, suite FEC¥222

#### Lanzhou, Gansu

#### Friendship Hotel, Lanzhou

友誼飯店

14 Xijin Road West, Lanzhou, Gansu 730050 Tel: 333051 Rates: Standard FEC¥150/200

#### Hongyun Hotel

虹雲賓館

5 Gaolan Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000 Tel: 28311 90 rooms and suites Located 7.5 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

#### Jincheng Hotel 金城賓館

363 Tianshui Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000 Tel: 416638 Telex: 72121 BTHJC CN 302 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC¥297, suite

Located 75 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

#### Lanhua Guesthouse

Welfare District, Xigu, Lanzhou, Gansu 730060 Tel: 55981

#### Lanzhou Hotel

蘭州飯店



#### Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

204 Donggang Road West, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000 Rates: Standard FEC¥150/250, suite FEC¥250/300

#### Ningwozhuang Guesthouse 寧臥莊賓館

238 Tianshui Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730000 Tel: 416221 Telex: 72146 GUEST CN Fax: 417639



GM: Hou Shenghua 130 rooms Rates: US\$30 Located 1 km from airport, 1 km from railway station Facilities: Meeting and conference rooms, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, billiard room, dance hall, tennis, function rooms, Chinese and Western restaurants

#### Victory Hotel

#### 勝利賓館

127 Zhongshan Road, Lanzhou, Gansu 730030 Rates: Standard FEC¥140/180, suite FEC¥200/240

#### Zhongchuan Airport Hotel

#### 中川機場飯店

Zhongchuan Airport, Lanzhou, Gansu 730087 Tel: 23415

#### Dunhuang, Gansu

#### **Dunhuang Hotel**

#### 敦煌賓館

1 Dongda Street, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200 Tel: 22008 Telex: 72078 DH8GS CN 155 rooms Rates: Standard FEC¥130/200, suite FEC¥300 Located 13 km from airport, 128 km from railway station

#### **Dunhuang Second Hotel** 敦煌第二賓館

Dingzi Road, Dunhuang, Gansu Rates: FEC¥100

#### Feitian Hotel

飛天賓館

Dingzi Road, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200 Rates: Standard FEC¥150

#### Solar Energy Hotel

#### 太陽能賓館

14 Beida Street, Dunhuang, Gansu 736200 Tel: 2134

#### Tianshui, Gansu

#### Tianshui Hotel 天水客館

5 Yingbin Road, Tianshui, Gansu 741000 Tel: 212410, 212553 Fax: (0938) 212823

GM: Li Dongguang

Opened 18 August 1987

172 rooms Rates: Single US\$33, Standard US\$25, suite US\$43/53

Located 10 km from airport, 16 km from railway station Taxi fare to/from airport, US\$2

Facilities: Beauty salon, bar, dance hall, restaurants, business centre, clinic

#### Jiayuguan, Gansu

#### Jiayuguan Hotel

#### 嘉峪關賓館

1 Xinhua Road North, Jiayuguan, Gansu 735100 Tel: 26185, 25804 Fax: 26931

GM: Wang Li

Opened 1983 75 rooms and suites Rates: Standard FEC¥130, suite FEC¥160

Located 13 km from airport, 5 km from railway station Facilities: Conference and banquet halls, Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, karaoke, gym, indoor swimming pool, massage, beauty

#### Jiuquan, Gansu

#### Jiuguan Hotel

酒泉客館

Nanguan, Jiuquan, Gansu 735000 Tel: 2560, 2641

#### Xiahe, Gansu

#### Labrang Guesthouse

拉卜楞賓館

County seat of Xiahe County, Xaihe, Gansu 747100

#### Urümqi, Xinjiang

#### Friendship Hotel, Xinjiang

#### 新疆友誼賓館

62 Yan'an Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001 Tel: 264222, 264223 Fax: 264219 GM: Ai Zezi 150 rooms

#### Holiday Inn Urümgi 新疆假日酒店

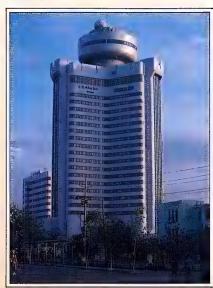


Photo by Ma Yiu Chun

168 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang Tel: (0991) 218788 Telex: 79161 XJGHP CN Fax: (0991) 217422 CM: Roland Soeines Rates: US\$70-90

#### Kunlun Hotel

#### 昆金套館

51 Youhao Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000 Tel: 440411

#### Overseas Chinese Hotel, Xinjiang 華僑賓館

51 Xinhua Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001 Tel: (0991) 260793, 260845, 260846 Telex: 79164 BOOTH CN Fax: (0991) 260622 GM: Song Qipei Opened September 1955 280 rooms Rates: U\$\$35 Facilities: Restaurant, bar, dance hall

#### Xinjiang Guesthouse

#### 新疆迎賓館

Yan'an Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830001 Tel: 268716

#### Xinjiang Hongshan Hotel

108 Xinhua Road North, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002 Tel: 224322

Rates: FEC¥70

#### Xinjiang Hotel

#### 新疆飯店

107 Changjiang Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830000 Tel: 512511

#### Xinjiang Hotel World Plaza

#### 新疆環球大酒店

2 Beijing Road South, Urümqi, Xinjiang Tel: 336360, 336400 Fax: 339007 GM: Lu Zhenxing Rates: FEC¥164

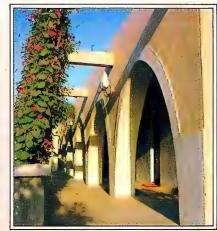
#### Xinjiang Sports Guesthouse

3 Renmin Road, Urümqi, Xinjiang 830002 Tel: 217978

#### Turpan, Xinjiang

#### Turpan Guesthouse

#### 吐魯番賓館



Qingnian Road, Turpan, Xinjiang 838000 Located 200 km from airport, 45 km from railway station

#### Turpan Hotel

#### 吐魯番飯店

Gaochang Road, Turpan, Xinjiang 838000

#### Turpan Oasis Hotel

#### 吐魯番綠洲賓館

41 Qingnian Road, Turpan, Xinjiang Tel: 22491, 22478 GM: Wai Li Rates: FEC¥150

#### Shihezi, Xinjiang

#### Shihezi Guesthouse

#### 石河子賓館

Donghuan Road, Shihezi, Xinjiang 832000 Tel: 22587 Rates: FEC¥164

#### **Bole**, Xinjiang

#### **Bozhou Hotel**

#### 博州賓館

Wenhua Road, Bole, Xinjiang Tel: 22327, 22751 Rates: FEC¥150

#### Altay, Xinjiang

#### **Altay Hotel**

#### 阿勒泰賓館

Altay, Xinjiang Rates: Double FEC¥36/48, triple FEC¥20/36, suite FEC¥100/180



# Shanghai "Sea-Gull" Umbrella



#### SHANGHAI ARTS & CRAFTS IMP. & EXP. CORP.

Add: 16, Zhong Shan Dong Yi Lu, Shanghai, China Tel: 3212100 Telex: 33053 ARTEX CN Cable: 5669 Shanghai Fax: (021) 3291871

Postcode: 200002

# TRAVELS

# Highlights in Guizhou Province

Guizhou Province is one of China's most well-kept secrets. In fact, throughout history Guizhou has been considered one of China's backwaters, a province so remote and primitive that no one would even think of willingly going there, much less as a tourist. These days, however, Guizhou's fantastic karst topography (similar to Guilin's), many ethnic minorities and wonderful natural scenery have made the province a haven for travellers eager to get off the beaten track.

Most visitors to this province hear, at one time or another, the saying that in Guizhou one never sees three consecutive days of sunshine, three mu of flat land, or a person with three taels of silver. Although the first two are fairly accurate, times have changed and Guizhou is no longer as poor as it once was. The capital of Guiyang is now accessible both by air and train, and has several good hotels with comfortable accommodations. Other places outside of Guiyang may not offer the same standard of tourist facilities, but the situation has improved in recent years. Moreover, the wide variety of attractions in the area should more than make up for the inconvenience.

#### Kaili

Approximately four hours' drive east of Guiyang is the city of Kaili, previously a sleepy little village. Kaili is the capital of Qiandongnan (Southeast Guizhou) Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, these two minorities making up 61.5 per cent of the prefecture's population of 3.68 million. On the streets people still wear traditional dress and women of both minorities decorate themselves with elaborate silver ornaments.

Minority cuisine is gaining popularity in the restaurants of Kaili, where people sit around low tables with a charcoal-heated pot set in its centre. The spicy food of the minorities may not be to everyone's taste, but these local "hot-pots" are certainly worth a try. Another interesting custom





found in the restaurants is the singing of "toasting songs" to any visitors who enter, welcoming in foreign and Chinese tourists alike.

Kaili, however, is changing rapidly, and alongside the ethnic culture are the tell-tale signs of modern life: dance halls, karaoke clubs, bars, office buildings and factories. The people here seem to have accepted the new, while at the same time retaining many of their ancient traditions. But for the individual traveller, Kaili is unique because of its proximity to many of China's most secluded Dong and Miao areas.

The Dong minority are noted for their beautiful all-wood structures, particularly the Wind and Rain Bridges which can be found along rivers in most Dong communities. Made without the use of nails, these bridges are intricately designed and can reach a length of 80 metres. The most famous Wind and Rain Bridge is located in Sanjiang in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, but there is also a fine example in a small village called Langde in Kaili.

Visitors to Anshun in Guizhou Province can see both the amazing Huangguoshu Waterfalls and Dragon's Palace Caves, not far from the falls in one day trip.

#### Anshun

The city of Anshun is known primarily for its batik products, but is a lovely place to visit in its own right, with a history of 600 years dating back to the Ming Dynasty. If, however, one is interested in the local batik, one can visit workshops and factories and watch the artists, mostly young women, drawing their intricate patterns and designs.

Besides batik, Anshun also has two ancient pagodas worth visiting, and the many Miao and Bouyei villages nearby, surrounded by magnificent karst scenery, are another attraction unique to the region.

Moving westward 46 kilometres from Anshun is Guizhou's most well-known tourist spot, the **Huangguoshu Waterfalls**. The largest waterfall in all of China, Huangguoshu boasts a 67-metre fall which flows year-round. There is a park below the waterfalls where one can swim, have a picnic or stroll around looking at some of the spectacular caves and karst formations. One can either make Huangguoshu Falls a day trip from Anshun or stay at one of the several hotels near the falls. The best time to see the falls is during the rainy season from May to October.

Located between Huangguoshu and Anshun are the Longgong (Dragon's Palace) Caves, a series of caves that extend for 15 kilometres. Some of the nearly 100 caves are dry, some flooded, therefore the best way to see them is by boat along the subterranean streams.

#### Zunyi

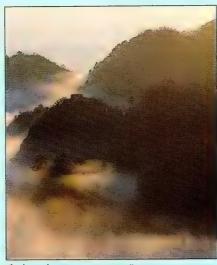
About 150 kilometres to the north of Guiyang is the city of Zunyi, the home of many brand-name Chinese liquors, including the well-known spirit called *maotai*. If you are interested in flowers, there is the **Zunyi Park**, which has a lovely rose garden. Nearby is an old neighbourhood with a busy market, and the city also has several hotels open to tourists.

Thus, with Guiyang as the starting point, one can head off in nearly any direction and find something of interest. Whether one wants to see the splendour of nature, the colourful life of the minorities, historic sites or simply stroll through villages seldom seen by outsiders — Guizhou is much, much more than a desolate backwater.

### Kongtong Mountain — A Hidden Treasure in Gansu Province

Located about 20 kilometres from the city of Pingliang in eastern Gansu, Kongtong Mountain has a fascinating history. According to legend, Emperor Huangdi, one of the earliest ancestors of the Chinese people, came to Kongtong Mountain over 4,000 years ago to find the secret of immortality. After studying Taoism with a hermit for many years, he became immortal and was deified as a god of the mountain.

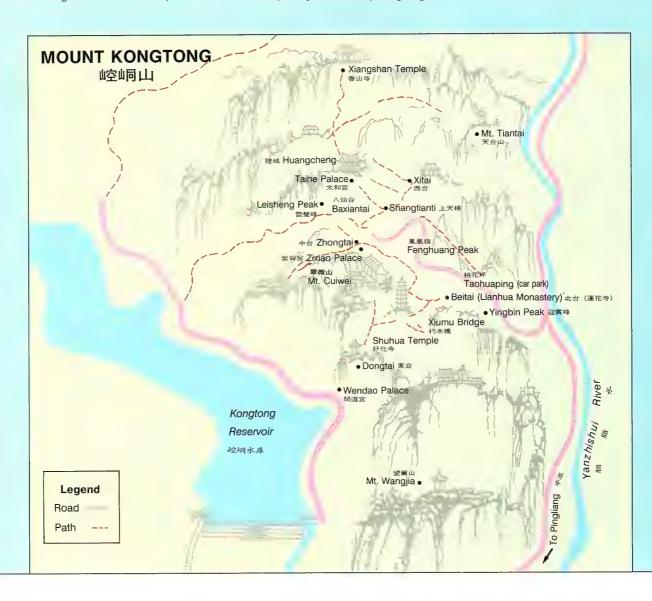
Perhaps due to this legend, Kongtong has long been considered one of the foremost Taoist mountains in China. Nearly 2,000 years ago, two of China's emperors — Qin Shihuang (r. 246-210 B.C.) and Wudi (r. 140-87 B.C.) of the Han Dynasty — were said to have followed in Huangdi's footsteps and also retreated here to study Taoism, thus ensuring the mountain's place in



The legendary Emperor Huangdi once came to Kongtong Mountain to study Taoism, here looking like a Chinese painting come to life (by Zhang Runguo).

China's history. At one time there were as many as 42 Buddhist and Taoist temples on the mountain. There are no records as to when the earliest temples were constructed, but many pavilions, terraces and corridors were built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) as additions to the already existing temples.

Unfortunately wars, political turmoil and natural disasters have destroyed much of the original workmanship, but the ruins of the oldest three temples built in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) still remain, and of course much new construction has been done since. Taoist monks still live in the mountain, close to nature and far away from the cares of modern existence. The mountain, sandwiched between the Jinghe River and Yanzhishui River, actually is a range consisting of dozens of peaks, and covers



sightseeing zone" of approximately 30 square kilometres. The scenery is breathtaking, changing with the light throughout the day, with the colours of the seasons providing yet more variety. The highest peak is wount Mazong, rising 1,975 metres above ea level. To reach the top one must climb he 378-step Shangtianti (Ladder to Heaven), which was hewn out of the steep stone lope during the Tang Dynasty under the upervision of Monk Ren Zhi, the first peron to extensively explore the mountain.

Standing at the top of Mount Mazong, ne is rewarded with a fantastic view of eaks and valleys, rolling clouds and the raceful eaves of temples poking out of ne mist. Pine trees and brightly-coloured owers add to the scene the ethereal quality

f a Chinese landscape painting.

Huangcheng Temple is the largest and nost elaborate of the structures on Kongong Mountain, somewhat resembling an nperial place. Its interior includes 30 states and a 60-square-metre mural, all in ood condition. Leisheng (Thunder) Peak ands to the west, its name derived om the fact that when thunder strikes, it choes in the valley below making an arth-shattering noise that sounds as if the peak is about to collapse.

Besides these sites, there are a great nany other places of interest to visit. The nountain is roughly divided into two parts the "front" of the mountain has the eepest peaks and contains many Taoist amples, terraces and palaces. The "back" of the mountain has a gentler slope, and sights in this side are more often Buddhist, including several ancient Buddhist relics.

If you happen to be here around the ighth day of the fourth lunar month, there a temple fair. Another popular activity watching the sunrise, the best location or this being the terrace of the Baxian lingshou Hall, two kilometres from the lanagement Centre's Guesthouse, which rovides the only lodgings on the moun-

Kongtong Mountain is accessible by road. ne Pingliang Guesthouse can help arrange red cars and bicycles, or purchase bus ckets. Once there, take either the "front" rute or the "back" route, depending on ow energetic you feel. The front route llows the Kongtong Reservoir and is the arder of the two, while the back route egins at Taohuaping. Another option is to rive up to the Kongtong Management entre. Buses go direct from Pingliang to the lanagement Centre during peak tourist asons and on holidays such as the temple ir.

# Pingyao — An Ancient Town Alive with History

Imagine stepping back in time 2,000 years to a small Chinese town, complete with temples, traditional architecture, city walls, battlements and watchtowers. This is what you will find if you go to Pingyao, a county town in central Shanxi Province.

With a population of only 40,000, Pingyao is one of China's four most well-preserved ancient towns, along with Xi'an in Shaanxi, Jiangling in Hubei and Xingcheng in Liaoning. Pingyao was a military and commercial centre for 2,000 years, and during the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368-1911) parts of the town were either rebuilt or repaired.

One of the most unique aspects of Pingyao is that it was designed in the shape of a tortoise, a traditional Chinese symbol of longevity. The southern gate of the city wall is the head of the tortoise, and the two wells outside the gate its eyes. The northern gate represents its tail and, appropriately, all of the town's rain water and sewage find their exit here. There are also four other gates on the east and west sides which are the legs of the animal.

Certainly the most remarkable feature of the town, however, is that all of its original walls are not only intact, but in excellent condition. The wall, 6.4 kilometres long, 12 metres high and five metres thick, was made with rammed earth and bricks and is wide enough for two horse-drawn carts to fit side by side.

Along the wall's exterior parapet are indentations every two or three metres, where soldiers used to stand and keep watch. Every 40 to 100 metres is a battlement platform and tower, once used to shelter the soldiers. At the four corners of the entire structure are higher watchtowers. In ancient times, of course, the wall served to protect the town from invaders, but in recent times it has also proved useful, protecting the inhabitants from several serious floods.

Inside the city gates, traditional architecture can be seen everywhere. Over 40 Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian temples dot the town, and the three-storey Market Tower on Nanda Street, with its curved eaves and intricate design, is a strong visual reminder of China's long and flourishing



An excellent example of some of the ancient architecture in Pingyao is the three-storey market tower on Nanda Street (by Chan Yat Nin).

civilization. At various times throughout Pingyao's history, the town's thriving commercial activities produced many wealthy families who built magnificent houses, about 500 altogether. These buildings are two storeys high, made of brick and wood and consist of two or three square buildings linked by passageways. One of the largest of these structures is the Rishengchang Money Exchange Shop, which has five courtyards and an eight-metre-deep passageway. Beautiful paintings, sculptures and friezes of all kinds adorn the roofs, eaves, walls, windows and gates.

Other than wandering around these wonderful old streets and lanes, there are numerous sites of interest within close reach. Outside of the east gate is the Huiji Bridge, built in 1671 and later expanded in 1878. Throughout the centuries it has withstood many floods, and has an elaborate design consisting of nine tunnels, a rare achievement for bridges built at that time.

Seventy-six historical relics in and around Pingyao are now under State, provincial and county protection, ensuring that these vestiges of China's fascinating past remain with us for many years to come. Pingyao is located 60 kilometres south of Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi, and is accessible by rail.



In July, tourists and locals alike enjoy the "Lotus Festival" on Weishan Lake, during which the lotus are in full bloom (by Hu Yanbin).

# Festivals and Events in Jiangsu Province in 1993

#### **Two Lotus Festivals**

On August 11 in the city of Nantong, the Neihao River will be alive with festivities celebrating the lotus flower. Nantong, in the southeast of Jiangsu, is a city with a network of water channels, and local people are very fond of the lotus, a water plant. During the summer the lotus are in full bloom and can be seen throughout the city. Festivities include a lotus dance at night, floating lamps on the water, looking at the lotus from a boat and folk song performances. Thousands of lamps will be floated on the water, and tourists are welcome to float their own lamps for good luck.

The other lotus festival is held throughout the month of **July** on Weishan Lake near Xuzhou City. Weishan Lake is famous for its beautiful scenery, and during the festival a 6,000-hectare lotus patch will be in full bloom.

#### Temple Fair in Changzhou

This year the birthday of Ksitigarbha, the

Bodhisattva of the Earth, falls on **September 14-15.** If you go on those days to Tianning Temple in Changzhou, you will witness Buddhist celebrations of this event, including all-night chanting of scriptures, praying, meditating and burning of incense. Not only confined to the temple grounds, the fair is also celebrated in the neighbouring areas of the temple, with Buddhist music and wafting incense creating a magical and festive atmosphere.

#### Fishermen's Sports on the Water

An event quite unique to Western athletic competitions, the fishermen's games on Hongze Lake in northern Jiangsu should be an interesting sight. On **September 8** of this year, the lake will be the location for these aquatic games, which include climbing masts, a tug-of-war on boats, catching fish with a fork, water basketball and more. After the games visitors can stroll around the scenic lake and watch folk performances, such as a fisherman's version of the drum

dance, walking on stilts and a "shrimp

#### The Moon Festival in Three Cities

On **September 30** of this year, the moon will be at its brightest and the Mid-Autumn Festival will be underway. The three best places in the province to view the full moon are Yangzhou, Wuxi and Nantong.

Yangzhou is known as China's "moon city", and its beautiful lake and mountain scenery make a wonderful backdrop for gazing at the moon. During the festival there will be song, dance and guzheng (a stringed instrument) performances, and visitors can sample some of Yangzhou's local cuisine.

Wuxi is situated near Lake Taihu, and the traditional way to view the moon is from a boat on the lake. If that does not strike you fancy, however, other activities include son, and dance performances, watching firework and partaking of the local products such a water chestnuts and lotus root.

Nantong is located on the north bank of the Yangtse estuary. This beautiful garder city actually consists of three towns, with the Haohe River winding its way through them During the Mid-Autumn Festival there will be lanterns, folk acrobatics, plays and fashion shows, all of which can be viewed from boats on the river. On land will be agarden fair, folk dances, children's performances and dragon dances.

#### Silk Tour Festival in Suzhou

From **September 20-25** of every year China's famous silk city of Suzhou holds silk Tour Festival for visitors interested in the production of silk. The tour will include fair and other kinds of entertainment, and



people wishing to participate in business negotiations are welcome.

# A Famous Painter's Anniversary in Xinghua

People interested in art might be atracted by a tour of the hometown of one of 'angzhou's eight famous, so-called "eccenric" painters, Zheng Banqiao. Zheng lived during the Qing Dynasty, and **November** 23 will be the 300th anniversary of his birth. ourists can visit his hometown of Xingua, north of Yangzhou, to see his original vaintings, take part in various activities and isit the museum where works of the eight vainters are displayed.

#### Festival for Xu Fu in Lianyungang

Every year on **November 24-26** in the orthern port of Lianyungang, a festival is eld in honour of Xu Fu, a priest during the lin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.). The Qin emeror sent Xu Fu to sea to search for the lixir of immortality, however he instead nded up in Japan, where he taught the eople how to plant grain, make handicrafts nd raise silkworms. To commemorate his eeds, a festival is held in his hometown of

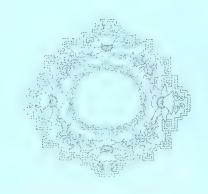
Lianyungang, with events including an ancient-style song and dance performance, a parade of floats, a symposium on Xu Fu and trade negotiations.

#### Temple Bells Ring in the New Year

The custom of temples ringing their bells on New Year's Eve originated in Jiangsu, and all over the province temples still follow this ancient practice. On New Year's Eve, bells can be heard emanating from temples in cities such as Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou, Zhenjiang, Changzhou and Changshu. The bells ring 108 times, during which people pray for happiness for the coming year.







# Shanxi's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

長治市 大同市 洪洞縣 晉城市
洪洞縣
晉城市
臨汾市
平遙縣
芮城縣
太原市
陽泉市
運城市

#### Guizhou's Cities and Counties Open to Foreign Tourists

1			•		
	Anlong C		安龍縣	Rongjiang C	榕江縣
	Anshun		安順市	Sandu Shui	三都水族
	Bijie C		畢節縣	AC	自治縣
	Chishui		赤水市	Sansui C	三穗縣
	Congjiang C		從江縣	Shibing C	施秉縣
	Dafang C		大方縣	Suiyang C	綏陽縣
	Dushan C		獨山縣	Taijiang C	台江縣
	Duyun		都勻市	Tongren	銅仁市
	Fuquan C		福泉縣	Xishui C	習水縣
	Guanling	134	横布依	Xingren C	興仁縣
	Bouyei &		族苗族	Xingyi	與義市
	Miao AC		自治縣	Yinjiang Tujia	印江土家
	Guiding C		貴定縣	& Miao	族苗族
	Guiyang		貴陽市	AC	自治縣
	Huangguoshu	1	黄果樹	Yuping Dong	玉屏侗族
	Tourist Area		遊覽區	AC	自治縣
1	Huangping C		黃平縣	Zhenfeng C	貞豐縣
	Jiangkou C		江口縣	Zhenning	鎮寧布依
	Jinsha C		金沙縣	Bouyei &	族苗族
	Kaili		凱里市	Miao AC	自治縣
	Libo C		荔波縣	Zhenyuan C	鎮遠縣
	Liping C		黎平縣	Zhijin C	織金縣
		六	盤水市	Zunyi	遵義市
	Meitan C		湄潭縣	Zunyi C	遵義縣
	Pingba C		平壩縣	Note:	
	Puding C		普定縣	C: County	
	Qianxi C		黔西縣	AC: Autonomo	ous
ı	Qinazhen C		清鎮縣	County	

**Train Schedules** Zhengzhou-Xi'an-Lanzhou-Urümqi

110/110	07	60	53/52	Train No.	54/51	70	98	114/111	244
								F.T.	F.T.
1.1.	LAP.			· ·					
Erom								To	
	18:10	, ,		Zhengzhou	07:25	13:23	21:30	Chengdu	
(on					05:18	11:16	19:38	(on	
alternate days)	22:42	02:17	07:25	Sanmenxia West	02:55	08:53	17:15	alternate days)	
	02:32	05:53	11:01	Xi'an	23:18	05:18	13:28		
11:13	05:03	08:32	13:39	Baoji	20:49	02:49	10:57	23:13	
14:50	08:03	11:51	16:44	Tianshui	17:46	23:48	07:56	19:40	
22:45	15:16	18:12	23:14	Lanzhou	11:06	16:45	00:59	12:14	11:59
08:43	23:50	02:41	07:36	Wuwei	02:44	08:47	17:02	03:50	03:50
13:30	05:15	07:06	12:02	Shandan	22:41	04:18	12:59	22:04	22:04
	06:31	08:14	13:19	Zhangye	21:22	02:59	11:40	20:45	20:45
		12:24	17:23	Jiuquan	17:20	22:45	07:24	16:20	16:20
	11:25	12:59	17:58	Jiayuguan	16:46	22:11	06:50	15:40	15:40
	12:25	13:57	19:02	Yumen	16:03	21:26	06:09	14:57	14:57
	17:48	19:13	23:59	Liuyuan	11:02	15:33	01:19	09:21	09:21
08:15	22:49	00:18	04:51	Hami	05:35	10:01	19:47	03:19	03:19
13:53	03:49	05:40	09:41	Shanshan	00:23	04:56	15:02	21:41	21:41
16:43	06:21	08:10	12:24	Turpan	21:54	02:19	12:35	19:02	19:02
		11:15	15:13 \	/ Urümqi	18:46	23:00	09:25	15:30	15:30
	alternate days)  11:13 14:50 22:45 08:43 13:30 14:41 19:10 19:45 20:43 02:27 08:15 13:53	F.T. Exp.  From Chengdu (on alternate days)  11:13	F.T. Exp. Exp. From Beijing Chengdu (on alternate days)	F.T. Exp. Exp. Exp. From Beijing Shanghai Chengdu (on alternate days)	F.T.         Exp.         Exp.         Exp.         Station           From Beijing         From Shanghai           From Shanghai           Chengdu (on 20:12         23:47         04:55         Luoyang           alternate days)         22:42         02:17         07:25         Sammenxia West           02:32         05:53         11:01         Xi'an           11:13         05:03         08:32         13:39         Baoji           14:50         08:03         11:51         16:44         Tianshui           22:45         15:16         18:12         23:14         Lanzhou           08:43         23:50         02:41         07:36         Wuwei           13:30         05:15         07:06         12:02         Shandan           14:41         06:31         08:14         13:19         Zhangye           19:10         10:48         12:24         17:23         Jiuguan           19:45         11:25         12:59         17:58         Jiayuguan           20:43         12:25         13:57         19:02         Yumen           02:27         17:48         19:13         23:59         Liuyuan	F.T.         Exp.         Exp.         Station         Exp.           From Chengdu (on alternate days)         18:10         21:46         02:54         Zhengzhou         07:25           02:32         05:53         11:01         Xi'an         23:18           11:13         05:03         08:32         13:39         Baoji         20:49           14:50         08:03         11:51         16:44         Tianshui         17:46           22:45         15:16         18:12         23:14         Lanzhou         11:06           08:43         23:50         02:41         07:36         Wuwei         02:44           13:30         05:15         07:06         12:02         Shandan         22:41           14:41         06:31         08:14         13:19         Zhangye         21:22           19:10         10:48         12:24         17:23         Jiuquan         17:20           19:45         11:25         12:59         17:58         Jiayuguan         16:46           20:43         12:25         13:57         19:02         Yumen         16:03           02:27         17:48         19:13         23:59         Liuyuan         11:02	F.T.         Exp.         Exp.         Station         Exp.         To         To         To         Shanghai         Beijing         Shail         Shail         Shail         11:16         Beijing         Shail         Shail         11:16         Beijing         Shail         Shail	F.T.         Exp.         Exp.         Exp.         Station         Exp.         Exp.	F.T.         Exp.         Exp.         Exp.         Station         Exp.         Exp.         F.T.           From Chengdu (on alternate days)         18:10         21:46         02:54         Zhengzhou         07:25         13:23         21:30         Chengdu (on alternate days)           02:32         05:53         11:01         Xi'an         23:18         05:18         11:16         19:38           11:13         05:03         08:32         13:39         Baoji         20:49         02:49         10:57         23:13           14:50         08:03         11:51         16:44         Tianshui         17:46         23:48         07:56         19:40           22:45         15:16         18:12         23:14         Lanzhou         11:06         16:45         00:59         12:14           08:43         23:50         02:41         07:36         Wuwei         02:44         08:47         17:02         03:50           13:30         05:15         07:06         12:02         Shandan         22:41         04:18         12:59         22:04           19:10         10:48         12:24         17:23         Jiuguan         17:20         22:45         07:24         16:20

Exp.—Express
F.T.—Fast through passenger train

**Train Schedules** Shijiazhuang—Taiyuan

559 O.	557 O.	555 O.	541 O.	Train No. Station	542 O.	556 O.	558 O.	560 O.
From Beijing	From Tianjin	12:02	20:32	Shijiazhuang	19:45	13:17	To Tianjin	To Beijing
21:54	06:48	12:17	20:47	Shijiazhuang North	19:32	13:04	05:53	22:12
00:06	08:58	14:29	23:09	Niangziguan	16:52	11:00	03:47	19:56
01:22	10:18	15:49	00:29	Yangquan	15:39	09:49	02:33	18:46
04:26	13:42	19:16	03:50	/ Taiyuan	12:16	06:30	23:40	15:25

O.—Ordinary passenger train

**Train Schedules** 

_	Ci	ilig — raiy	a carr
38		Train No.	388
10	),	Station	Ο.
21:	08	Beijing /	\06:18
03:	37	Lingqiu	00:56
04:	53	Wutaishan	23:29
05:	50	Daixian	22:29
06:	43	Yuanping	21:47
07:	21	Xinzhou	21:04
08:	50 <sub>\</sub>	/ Taiyuan	19:00

## Average Climatic Conditions in Shanxi, Guizhou and Gansu Provinces

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Tairren	Temperature (°C)	-6.6	-3.1	3.7	11.4	17.7	21.7	23.5	21.8	16.1	9.9	2.1	-4.9
Ob	Taiyuan	Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.0	10.3	23.8	30.1	52.6	118.3	103.6	64.3	30.8	13.2	3.4
Shanxi	Datong	Temperature (°C)	-11.3	-7.7	·-0.1	8.3	15.4	19.9	21.8	20.1	14.3	7.5	-1.4	-8.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	3.9	9.9	19.3	29.1	45.1	95.1	94.1	51.2	23.7	8.1	1.5
Guizhou Kaili	Voili	Temperature (°C)	4.7	6.1	11.3	16.5	20.0	23.2	25.6	24.7	21.7	16.7	11.4	7.0
Guiznou	Naiii	Rainfall (mm)	26.6	30.1	49.0	140.5	208.0	206.7	162.2	139.2	84.3	99.6	61.3	27.0
	Lanzhou	Temperature (°C)	-6.9	-2.3	5.2	11.8	16.6	20.3	22.2	21.0	15.8	9.4	1.7	-5.5
		Rainfall (mm)	1.4	2.4	8.3	17.4	36.2	32.5	63.8	85.3	49.1	24.7	5.4	1,3
Gansu	Dunhuang	Temperature (°C)	-9.3	-4.1	4.5	12.4	18.3	22.7	24.7	23.5	17.0	8.7	0.2	-7.0
Gansu		Rainfall (mm)	0.8	1.6	1.2	2.9	1.6	6.7	12.1	5.3	1.8	1.0	1.1	0.7
	P	Temperature (°C)	-10.2	-6.9	1.9	9.0	16.0	19.8	21.4	20.6	14.3	7.1	-1.6	
	Jiuquan	Rainfall (mm)	2.0	2.6	4.4	4.9	13.3	7.4	16.7	13.9	11.5	2.1	2.0	1.3
	Hami	Temperature (°C)	-12.2	-5.8	4.5	13.2	20.2	25.2	27.2	25.9	19.1	9.9	-0.6	-9.0
	Папп	Rainfall (mm)	1.7	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.8	6.4	5.9	5.0	3.0	2.1	1.6	
Vinilana	Turnon	Temperature (°C)	-9.5	-2.1	9.3	18.9	25.7	31.0	32.7	30.4	23.3	12.6	1.8	-7.2
Xinjiang	Turpan	Rainfall (mm)	1.5	0.3	1.4	. 0.4	0.5	3.3	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.4
	Urümai	Temperature (°C)	-15.2	-12.2	0.7	10.8	18.9	23.4	25.7	23.8	17.4	8.2	-2.6	-12.0
	Orumqi	Rainfall (mm)	5.6	4.0	18.8	22.6	25.1	29.1	16.4	18.9	14.2	17.2	15.2	7.4

Train Schedules
Datong—Ningwu—Taiyuan

		110119	-itingwa—	aiyu	211	
343	341	175/174	Train No.	176/173	342	344
0.	O.	F.T.	Station \	F.T.	O.	Ο.
				To Baotou		
22:30	07:50	19:45	Datong	12:46	20:15	06:00
01:20	10:31	22:24	Shuozhou	09:59	17:42	03:26
02:01	11:14	_	Yangfangkou	_	17:06	02:50
02:32	11:37	23:20	Ningwu	09:11	16:50	02:34
04:27	13:17	01:31	Yuanping	07:35	15:03	00:56
05:11	13:56	02:12	Xinzhou	06:40	14:20	00:11
07:00	15:35	04:01	Taiyuan	04:58	12:45	22:38
		To Xi'an				

Flights to and from Lanzhou, Gansu

Route		1	Da W		s c			Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
	1							18:15	20:50	WH2124
	1	2						13:15	18:10	WH2144
Beijing-Lanzhou	ı			4				16:00	18:35	WH2146
Denjing—Lanzinou	ı				5			11:50	14:20	WH2114
	ı	2				6		10:50	13:00	WH2112
			3				7	17:10	19:40	WH2118
	1							08:40	10:55	WH2123
	ı	2						07:55	12:15	WH2143
Lanzhou-Beijing				4				08:40	10:55	WH2145
	1				5			08:40		
		2				6		13:50		
	_		3		_		7	08:40		
Chengdu-Lanzhou	1			4		6		13:55	18:10	
Lanzhou-Chengdu	1			4		6		08:50		
Dunhuang-Lanzhou	L		3		5		7	12:30	16:20	WH2204
Lanzhou—Dunhuang	_		3		5		7	08:25	11:55	
			3					13:55	20:00	
Guangzhou-Lanzhou	ı					6		15:10	21:25	WH2302
	_	2	_	4	5	6	7	11:00	13:50	WH2312
Lanzhou—Guangzhou			3					08:35	13:15	111111111111
		_				6		08:30	14:20	
	_	2	_	4	5	6	7	14:40	17:15	
Jiayuguan—Lanzhou		2						11:05	12:55	WH2208
		_	3		5		7	14:30	16:20	
Lanzhou-Jiayuguan		2						08:45	10:35	WH2207
, 5			3	_	5	_	7	08:25	10:15	
Shanghai-Lanzhou			3					11:05	13:45	WH2512
	1		_	_	5			12:25	16:55	WH2516
Lanzhou-Shanghai			3		_			14:35	17:05	WH2511
	1		_	_	5			08:45	11:40	WH2515
Hadan at Laureton			3		_			09:45	12:00	XO9605
Urümqi-Lanzhou					5		_	19:20	22:05	
			3	_	_	_	7	09:25	11:40	XO9507
Lanzhou-Urümqi			3		_			20:00	22:40	XO9606
Lanzhou—Orumqi					5		7	15:10	18:30	WH2913
	-	2		_	-	_		21:00	23:40	XO9508
		۷	3					19:15	22:15	WH2854
			J			6		17:50	21:00 19:05	WH2252 WH2520
Xi'an-Lanzhou	1				5	U		15:40	16:55	WH2516
	ľ			4	J		7	16:35	17:50	WH2416
				7	5		7	15:20	17:00	WH2222
	1			4		6	′	16:30	18:10	WH2410
	_	2	_	-	_			08:20	09:30	WH2853
			3					17:10	18:45	WH2251
			_			6		08:40	09:50	WH2519
Lanzhou-Xi'an				4			7	08:35	09:45	WH2415
					5		7	08:20	09:55	WH2221
	1			4		6	'	08:50	10:25	WH2409
Hong Kong-Lanzhou	Ė	_		·		_				
(Charter)		2						18:25	23:20	WH2006
(Ottailet)										
Lanzhou-Hong Kong		2			_			13:35	17:05	WH2005

Flights to and from Taiyuan, Shanxi

Tangara to and notifically during officially										
Route	Days of Week							Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Shenzhen—Talyuan	1							11:50	14:50	GP7310
				4				16:40	19:40	GP7308
Taiyuan—Shenzhen	1							08:00	11:00	GP7309
				4				07:30	10:30	GP7307
Guangzhou—Taiyuan						6		16:30	19:15	GP7306
						6		16:45	19:25	GP7312
	1		3			6		10:30	13:55	WH2371
	1	2	3	4	5		7	16:40	19:25	GP7304
Taiyuan—Guangzhou						6		07:35	10:25	GP7305
						6		08:15	10:55	GP7311
						6		14:55	17:25	WH2372
	1	2	3	4	5		7	07:20	10:00	GP7303
Beijing—Taiyuan	1		3					21:10	22:20	GP7106
						6		21:40	22:10	GP7110
Taiyuan—Beijing	1		3					07:30	08:30	GP7105
						6		07:10	08:10	GP7109

Flights to and from Urümqi, Xinjiang

Boute Days of Day Ary Flight

Route			ay: Ve				Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
	1					_	07:45	11:40	XO701
Beijing — Urümqi	1						17:45	21:35	XO9604
	2						18:50	22:45	XO9602
		3	1				06:50	10:45	XO703
	ŀ		4				20:20	00:15	XO9512
				5			09:50	13:55	CJ6921
					6		11:05	15:10	CJ6901
	2		4				08:45	12:35	XO9104
			4		6		20:55	00:50	XO9110
	1 2	3		5		7	18:10	22:05	XO9102
	1						18:00	21:20	XO702
	1						09:15	12:35	XO9603
	2						09:15	12:35	XO9601
		3					18:55	22:15	XO704
Urümgi-Beljing			4				09:05	12:20	XO9511
or uniqr—beijing				5			14:40	18:15	CJ6922
					6		16:00	19:35	CJ6902
	2					7	15:00	18:20	XO9103
			4		6		09:15	12:35	XO9109
	1 2	3		5		7	13:10	16:30	XO9101
Guangzhou—Urümqi	1						14:45	19:45	XO9302
	2						16:05	22:05	XO9308
Urümgi—Guangzhou	1					_	09:25	13:45	XO9301
	2						09:35	15:05	XO9307
Harbin-Urümqi	2						16:10	22:45	XO9602
Urümqi — Harbin	2						09:15	15:10	XO9601
Shanghai-Urümqi			4				17:10	00:15	XO9512
	1				6		15:05	20:05	XO9502
Urümqi—Shanghai			4				09:05	15:30	XO9511
orumqi—shanghai	1				6		09:45	14:05	XO9501
Xi'an—Urümqi			4				19:05	22:25	XO9504
				5			14:20	17:40	WH2901
	2			5			20:20	23:40	XO9802
		3			6		18:50	22:10	XO9306
			4				09:25	12:20	XO9503
Urümqi—Xi'an				5			18:30	21:25	WH2902
	2			5			09:25	12:20	XO9801
		3			6		09:25	12:20	XO9305
Aksu-Urümqi		3		5		7	12:15	14:20	XO9916
Aksu-oraniqi	1 2		4	5	6	7	16:35	18:45	XO9912
Urümqi—Aksu		3		5		7	09:30	11:45	XO9915
		3	4	5		7	09:40	11:55	XO9911
Altay-Urümqi	2		4		6		11:20	12:40	XO9920
Urümqi-Altay	2		4		6		09:30	10:50	XO9919
Karamay—Urümqi	2				_		11:00	12:10	XO9936
Urümqi – Karamay	2						09:20	10:30	XO9935
Kashi-Urümgi		3				7	21:10	22:45	XO9902
oraniqi	12			5			12:35	14:10	XO9904
Urümqi-Kashi		3				7	18:30	20:20	XO9901
C. amy Rasin	1 2			5			09:55	11:45	XO9903
									-

# NEWS



### Air Traffic to Xinjiang to Improve

A new project is underway to improve air links with Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Called the "Air Silk Road Project", plans include adding over 20 new planes to the existing fleet over the next six years, opening more international routes between Urümqi and other destinations, and building airports in several other cities in the region, such as Kashi, Korla, Hotan and Tacheng. Urümqi Airport will also be renovated, using a loan of US\$13.79 million from Japan.



#### **New Airline in Anhui**

A new airline company called the China Eastern Aviation Anhui Corporation has been set up in the city of Hefei in Anhui Province. Funded by China Eastern Airlines, which will provide four Mcdonald-82 aircraft and Anhui Province, which will put up US\$24.5 million in capital, the new company will be a joint venture and profits will be shared evenly between the two.



#### **New Cruise Ships**

Beginning in March 1994, two luxury cruise ships will be available for tourists wishing to visit the Three Gorges. The boats, named "China Glory" and "China Dream", will carry 110 passengers and will be equipped with a bar, restaurants and other amenities. The cruisers will sail between Chongqing in Sichuan Province and the city of Yichang in Hubei Province for a six-day tour of the Three Gorges.



#### Guangzhou-Shenyang Train Route

A new train (No. 183/184) running from southern Guangzhou to the northeastern city of Shenyang in Liaoning Province has begun operation. The 3,160-kilometre trip takes approximately 60 hours and the train has a capacity of 1,100 passengers.



#### **Tianjin-Xiamen Air Route**

The Tianjin branch of Air China has opened a new route between Tianjin and the coastal city of Xiamen in Fujian Province. There are two return flights per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the 1,729-kilometre flight lasts two and half hours.



#### New Archaeological Museum Open in Zhejiang

Following important archaeological discoveries dating back 6-7,000 years, a museum has been set up in the city of Yuyao in Zhejiang Province to study China's ancient civilization. The Hemudu Museum is named after ruins discovered by local farmers in 1973, where over 7.000 relics were unearthed, including pottery fragments, animal remains, stone implements, tools made out of bone, crockery, utensils and ornaments. The remains covered an area of 40,000 square metres and also included parts of wooden structures built in a distinctive architectural style, after which the museum was modelled.

This breakthrough in archaeology proved that China had a flourishing civilization along the Yellow and Yangtse river basins as early as 6-7,000 years ago. One of the most important discoveries was the remains of cultivated rice: Large quantities of rice, rice husks and rice stems were found, still well-preserved in three-metre-deep ground. The ruins have attracted over 200,000 visitors in the past 20 years, therefore the new museum should prove of great research and educational value, allowing people to learn more about these ancient relics.



#### Jin Tombs Excavated

Dating back to the Western and Eastern Zhou Dynasties (11th century-221 B.C.), tombs of the Jin imperial family have been excavated in Quwo County in Shanxi Province. Eight pits used for sacrifices were discovered, and two contained carts which were buried alongside the dead. Also on the same site (8.75 km²), some 600 tombs from the same period have been unearthed in the past ten years. The newly-excavated tombs of the Jin royalty included rare bronzes belonging to a duke from the Jin Kingdom.



#### Miniature Landscape Park in Henan

The Jinghua Miniature Landscape Park has been opened in the village of Xiaojin in Xinxiang County, Henan Province. Built by the Henan Jinghua Industrial Enterprise, a township enterprise headed by a woman farmer, US\$2.59 million has been invested so far. The park features architecture from different periods of Chinese history, landscapes and miniature models of famous sites. A hot spring is also available for bathing.



#### Karst Caves Discovered in Jiangxi and Hebei

Two recent discoveries of karst caves have been made in Jiangxi and Hebei Provinces. The caves in the city of Pingxiang in Jiangxi Province number at least 37 and cover an area of 400,000 square metres. The caves vary in length, size and shape, with some large enough to hold 10,000 people. Stelae, stalagmites and stalactites have been found in many of these rare caves.

In Quyang County, Hebei Province, a single karst cave over 2,000 metres long has also been discovered, and will be opened to tourists on May 1. The cave encompasses an area of 4,000 square metres, and with its interesting stone formations is expected to be a popular tourist destination.



Increased Transport Links to Heilongjiang

Heilongjiang Province in Northeast China is stepping up plans to improve its transportation and communications network. A highway will be built to connect Heihe in the north with Blagoveshchensk in Russia and Suifenhe in the east with the Russian city of Vladivostok. Water and land communications will also be set up from the capital of Harbin to the ports of Bayuguan and Dalian, and routes along the Songhua, Heilongjiang and Wusuli Rivers will be open for navigation. New air routes are also planned. linking Harbin to the city of Irkutsk in Russia, Seoul, Japan, Alaska and Hong Kong.



#### Weifang's Museums Proving Popular

Weifang, a city in Shandong Province famous for its annual International Kite Festival, has the world's biggest and most complete Weifang Kite Museum, built in 1980. The Folk Customs Museum at Anqiu presents the lifestyle of the farmers of North China as well as demonstrating the traditional wedding ceremonies of the region. Other museums specialize in the arts and historical relics. Weifang is now planning a museum devoted to silk, the arts and traditional customs.



#### Resort Island in Shandong

Yangma Island, near Yantai off the coast of the Jiaodong Peninsula, Shandong Province, has become China's latest tourist attraction. A new hotel, the People's Daily Resort, has been renovated to provide 198 standard beds and nine rooms for conferences and events. Covering an area of ten square kilometres, Yangma is renowned for its fresh air and beautiful, quiet beaches. Famous since Qin Shihuang first visited it more than 2,000 years ago, the island attracts visitors with its seafood and its horse-racing track, the second largest in Asia.

# N E X T

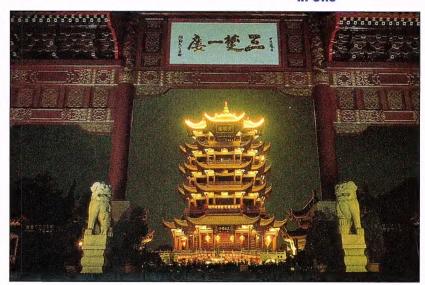


 Chu Cultural Relics: Exquisite and Unique In our next issue, we will go first to the heart of China, the triple city of Wuhan in Hubei Province, praised for centuries by scholars and travellers alike. Then we take a look at some of the valuable archaeological relics unearthed in Hubei Province dating back to the State of Chu, which flourished over 2,000 years ago.

Moving northwest to Gansu Province, one of our reporters traces the source of the Weihe River, the largest tributary of the Yellow River, and finds much more than he expected. Lastly, we will visit the Daur people in the very north of China, a minority with unique traditions, art and way of

life.

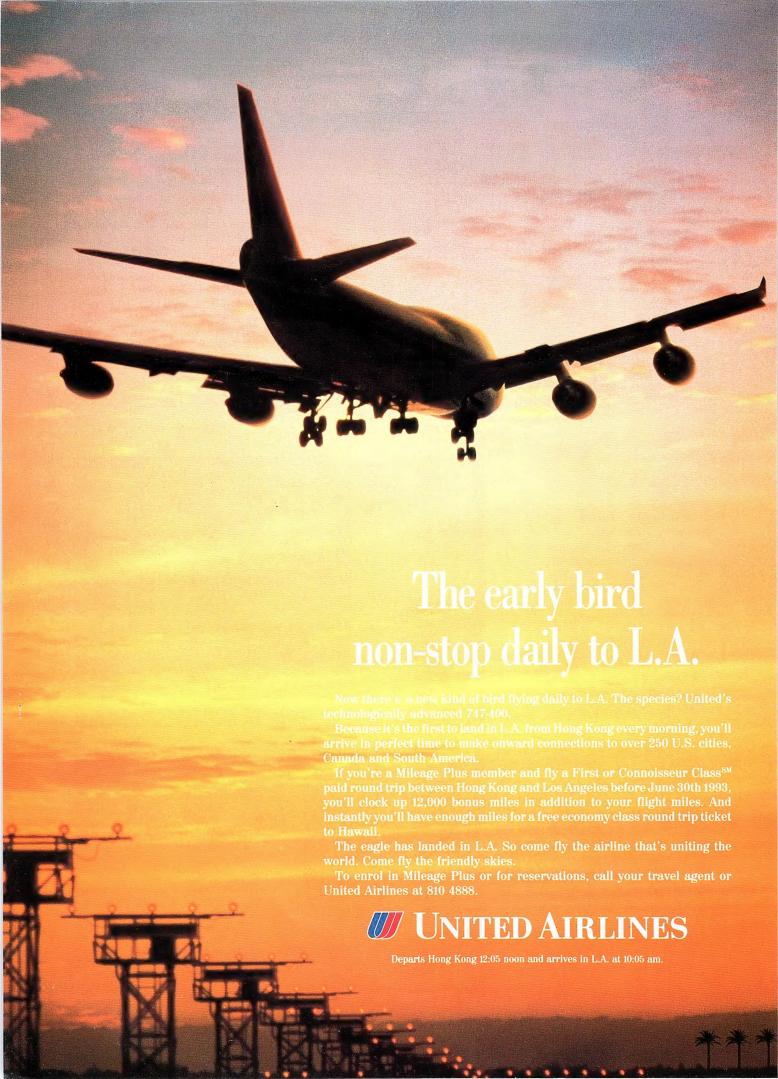
Wuhan – Three Cities in One







- In Search of the Source of the Weihe River
- The Descendants of Hunters and Fairies — North China's Little-Known Daur People





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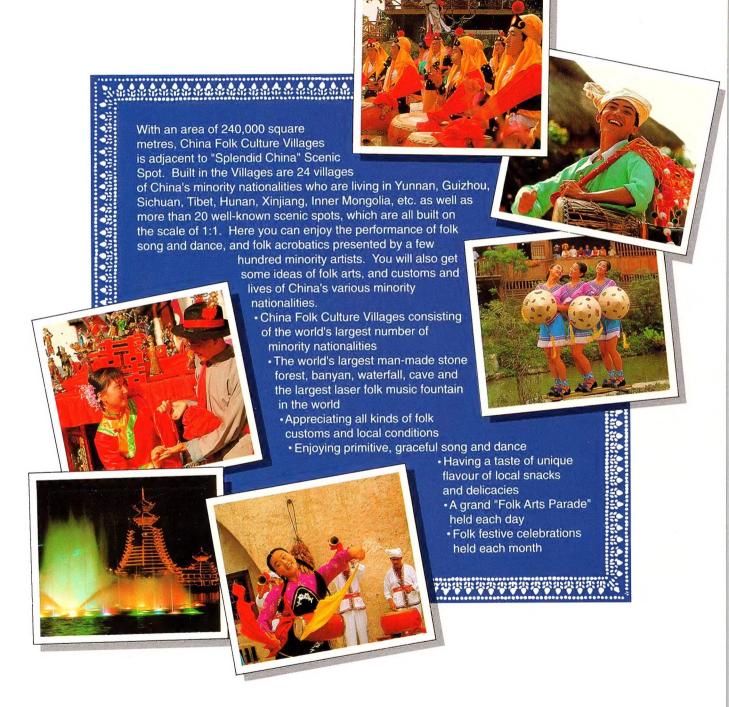
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